

Alteration of Gut Microbiota in type 2 Diabetes Complicated with Cholelithiasis Patients

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1 **Alteration of gut microbiota in type 2 diabetes complicated with**
2 **cholelithiasis patients**

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15

16 **ABSTRACT**

17 *Background:* Epidemiological studies showed that diabetes patients are more prone to
18 developing cholelithiasis. Although composition of gut microbiota in type 2 diabetes or
19 cholelithiasis have been studied respectively, the underlying role of gut microbiota in
20 developing from diabetes to cholelithiasis remains unclear. By 16S rRNA gene
21 sequencing, the gut microbial composition of 33 healthy subjects, 53 type 2 diabetes,
22 31 cholelithiasis and 32 type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients were
23 studied.

24 *Results:* Microbial diversity significantly decreased in type 2 diabetes complicated
25 with cholelithiasis patients. In type 2 diabetes patients, phylum *Proteobacteria*, class
26 *Gammaproteobacteria* and order *Lactobacillales* were significantly increased. In
27 cholelithiasis patients, phylum *Bacteroidetes*, class *Bacteroidia*, order *Bacteroidales*,
28 family *Bacteroidaceae* and genus *Bacteroides* were significantly increased. There were
29 also significant increases of phylum *Proteobacteria*, class *Gammaproteobacteria*,
30 order *Lactobacillales*, family *Lactobacillaceae* and genus *Lactobacillus* in type 2
31 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients accompanied by elevated serum
32 triglyceride and total bile acids.

33 *Conclusions:* The results show similar but more intricate gut microbiota dysbiosis in
34 type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis compared with type 2 diabetes, which
35 might partially explain the mechanism of type 2 diabetes as the risk factor of
36 cholelithiasis from the perspective of gut microbiota.

37

38 Keywords: Gut microbiota; Type 2 diabetes; Cholelithiasis; Type 2 diabetes
39 complicated with cholelithiasis; 16S rRNA gene sequencing

40 **INTRODUCTION**

41 Type 2 diabetes and cholelithiasis are both common diseases with a high
42 prevalence. The incidence of type 2 diabetes is about 10.8% in the United States^[1].
43 Cholelithiasis is one of the most common gastrointestinal disease in the Europe and
44 United States, with an incidence between 10-15% among adults^[2,3]. In China, the

45 prevalence of type 2 diabetes is 9.7% and adult cholelithiasis is 8-10%^[4]. Obesity,
46 insulin resistance and abnormal metabolism are risk factors of type 2 diabetes,
47 epidemiologic studies suggest that which are also risk factors of cholelithiasis^[5]. As a
48 metabolic system disease, type 2 diabetes may cause chronic damage of multiple
49 tissues and organs. Gallstone formation was reported mainly related to the abnormal
50 metabolism of cholesterol and bile acids^[6]. Several studies have indicated that diabetes
51 patients are at an increased risk of developing cholelithiasis^[7,8]. An animal study has
52 shown that insulin resistance directly promotes the formation of gallstones^[9]. However,
53 the underlying mechanism that diabetes patients are more prone to developing
54 cholelithiasis remains unclear.

55 In recent years, increasing evidences implicated the role of gut microbiota in the
56 development of multiple chronic diseases^[10], including non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
57 (NAFLD)^[11], obesity^[12], colorectal cancer^[13], diabetes^[14] and gallstone disease^[15].
58 Thus, gut microbiota homeostasis is crucial to human health. Qin et al.'s study^[14] found
59 that opportunistic pathogens such as *Escherichia coli*, *Bacteroides caccae* and
60 *Clostridium hathewayi* were more abundant in type 2 diabetes patients, however
61 butyrate-producing bacteria such as *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* and *Roseburia*
62 *intestinalis* decreased. Wu et al.'s study^[15] showed that the phylum *Proteobacteria* was
63 significantly increased and the genera *Roseburia*, *Lachnospira* and *Faecalibacterium*
64 were significantly decreased in gallstones patients. Maurer KJ^[16] found that infection
65 with certain strains of *Helicobacter* promotes gallstone formation in
66 gallstone-susceptible C57L/J mice. The underlying mechanism of gut microbiota in the
67 development of type 2 diabetes and cholelithiasis was not entirely clear. To date,
68 literature has pointed that gut microbiota dysbiosis could lead to the decrease of
69 secondary bile acids, then reduce the activation of bile acid receptors, and finally result
70 in glucose metabolism disorder and type 2 diabetes occurrence^[17]. Moreover, the
71 research also indicated that gut microbiota could regulate enterohepatic recycling of
72 bile acids, then disrupt the metabolism of cholesterol, and subsequently contribute to
73 the formation of cholesterol gallstones^[6,18,19].

74 Diabetes patients are at a higher risk of developing cholelithiasis^[7,8]. However, the
75 underlying role of gut microbiota in developing from diabetes to cholelithiasis is still
76 unclear. To this end, 16S rRNA gene sequencing was carried out to analyze the
77 microbial composition of gut from healthy subjects, type 2 diabetes patients,

78 cholelithiasis patients and type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients.
79 Clarifying the gut microbial characteristics of patients with type 2 diabetes complicated
80 with cholelithiasis will help improve our understanding of the potential mechanism that
81 diabetes patients are more prone to developing cholelithiasis from the perspective of
82 gut microbiota. This study provides insights into the role of gut microbiota in the
83 progression from diabetes to cholelithiasis.

84 **RESULTS**

85 ***Characteristics of clinical samples and data***

86 In this study, feces samples were collected from 33 healthy subjects (D1 group),
87 53 type 2 diabetes patients (D2 group), 31 cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and 32
88 type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) (see Table 1 for
89 detailed patient information). In total, 149 feces samples were obtained. All
90 cholelithiasis patients were classified as cholesterol gallstones according to the
91 definition proposed by Marschall et al.^[20], i.e. a cholesterol content of 50-90%. When
92 comparing the typical metabolites levels, we found that type 2 diabetes complicated
93 with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) have rather similar blood glucose levels with
94 type 2 diabetes patients (D2 group) (Figure 1A), but they have higher triglyceride
95 (Figure 1A) and total bile acids levels (Figure 1B) compared with mere cholelithiasis
96 patients (D3 group).

97 By 16S rRNA gene sequencing, the microbial composition of gut was analyzed.
98 An average of 83,615 raw reads was obtained for per sample. After quality filtering, a
99 mean of 79,042 high-quality reads were retrieved. The sequencing data is enough to
100 reflect species diversity (Supplementary Figure 1). Sequences were clustered into 3030
101 operational taxonomic units (OTUs) based on 97% sequence similarity, with 2232
102 OTUs in healthy subjects (D1 group), 2246 OTUs in type 2 diabetes patients (D2
103 group), 1971 OTUs in cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and 2009 OTUs in type 2
104 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group). The OTUs differences
105 among four groups were statistically significant ($P<0.05$, Kruskal-Wallis test) (Table
106 1), of which differences between D4 and D1 groups, D4 and D3 groups were
107 statistically significant (D4 vs D1: $P=0.008$, D4 vs D3: $P=0.0051$, Mann-Whitney test,
108 data not shown), and OUT richness was least in D4 group. OTUs were annotated at
109 different classification levels using the Silva132 database. At the phylum level, three
110 phyla predominated: *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes* and *Proteobacteria*.

111 ***Microbial diversity significantly decreased in type 2 diabetes complicated with***
112 ***cholelithiasis patients***

113 The intra-community alpha diversity, which represents microbial diversity, was
114 analyzed. The observed species, which represent microbial richness, were significantly
115 decreased in type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group)
116 compared with cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) ($P=0.0031$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test)
117 and healthy subjects (D1 group) ($P=0.0179$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test) (Figure 2A). The
118 shannon index between D4 and D3 groups ($P=0.0224$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test), D4
119 and D2 groups ($P=0.0159$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test), D4 and D1 groups ($P=0.0091$,
120 Wilcoxon rank-sum test) were also statistically different (Figure 2B). Patients with type
121 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis (D4 group) presented the lowest shannon
122 index. The results suggested that gut microbiota dysbiosis was more intricate in patients
123 with type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis. For other alpha diversity indices,
124 such as simpson, chao 1, good's coverage and PD_whole tree, consistent results were
125 obtained (data not shown).

126 The beta diversity was also analyzed to discover whether gut microbial community
127 differences were significantly existed between groups. We found that unweighted
128 unifrac based-beta diversity between D4 and D3 groups, D4 and D1 groups were
129 significantly different ($P<0.01$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test), but there was no statistical
130 difference between D4 and D2 groups ($P=0.3858$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test) (Figure 2C).
131 Moreover, principal co-ordinates analysis (PCoA) using unweighted unifrac distance
132 algorithm showed that the microbial community structureof type 2 diabetes
133 complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) was similar with type 2 diabetes
134 patients (D2 group)($P=0.051$, AMOVA), whereas was significant different from
135 cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) ($P=0.001$, AMOVA) (Figure 2D). This finding
136 suggested that type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis might share common gut
137 microbial characteristics with type 2 diabetes.

138 ***Type 2 diabetes, cholelithiasis and type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis***
139 ***remodeled the gut microbial communities***

140 At the phylum level, the relative abundance of *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes* and
141 *Proteobacteria* was more than 96% in all groups. *Firmicutes* was most common in
142 healthy subjects (D1 group) (approximately 57.75%), but decreased to 48.23%, 44.64%
143 and 44.60% in type 2 diabetes patients (D2 group), cholelithiasis patients (D3 group)

144 and type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) , respectively
145 (Figure 3A). In contrast, *Bacteroidetes* increased from 32.89% in healthy subjects (D1
146 group) to 39.24%, 43.87% and 36.44%, *Proteobacteria* increased from 6.91% in
147 healthy subjects (D1 group) to 9.12%, 8.53% and 15.95%, in type 2 diabetes patients
148 (D2 group), cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and type 2 diabetes complicated with
149 cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) , respectively. *Verrucomicrobia* slightly increased in
150 cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis
151 patients (D4 group) (Figure 3A). The gut microbial composition of all samples at the
152 phylum level were shown in Supplementary Figure 2.

153 Among the top 10 genera, *Bacteroides* predominated, which increased from 26.46%
154 in healthy subjects (D1 group) to 29.46%, 37.00% and 26.55% in type 2 diabetes
155 patients (D2 group), cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and type 2 diabetes complicated
156 with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) , respectively. The genera *Faecalibacterium* and
157 *Megamonas* were most common in healthy subjects (D1 group), *Faecalibacterium*
158 decreased from 11.30% in healthy subjects (D1 group) to 5.89%, 7.65% and 5.57%,
159 *Megamonas* decreased from 4.44% in healthy subjects (D1 group) to 0.53%, 0.44% and
160 0.87%, in type 2 diabetes patients (D2 group), cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and
161 type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) , respectively
162 (Figure 3B). The relative abundance of genus *unidentified Enterobacteriaceae*
163 increased from 1.47% in healthy subjects (D1 group) to 3.38%, 4.23% and 5.40% in
164 type 2 diabetes patients (D2 group), cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and type 2
165 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group), respectively (Figure 3B).
166 The gut microbial composition of all samples at the genus level were shown in
167 Supplementary Figure 3.

168 ***Similarity and association analysis of gut microbial composition***

169 To further investigate the similarities and associations of gut microbial
170 communities, unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA,
171 weighted unifrac) clustering analysis at the phylum level was performed. The resulted
172 cluster tree showed that four groups were divided into three different clusters, type 2
173 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) was in cluster A, type 2
174 diabetes patients (D2 group) and cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) were in cluster B,
175 and healthy subjects (D1 group) was in cluster C (Figure 3C). The results suggested that
176 the gut microbial composition of mere type 2 diabetes and mere cholelithiasis was

177 similar at the phylum level, whereas some alterations were generated in type 2 diabetes
178 complicated with cholelithiasis.

179 Furthermore, Venn diagram analysis showed that 68 OTUs were common to type 2
180 diabetes (D2 group) and cholelithiasis (D3 group), 94 OTUs were common to type 2
181 diabetes (D2 group) and type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis (D4 group), 52
182 OTUs were common to cholelithiasis (D3 group) and type 2 diabetes complicated with
183 cholelithiasis (D4 group), and 70 OTUs were shared by D2, D3 and D4 groups (Figure
184 3D). Among the 70 OTUs, the phyla *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes*, *Proteobacteria* and
185 *Actinobacteria*, and the genera *Sutterella*, *Bacteroides*, *Dialister* and *Parasutterella*,
186 were significantly different between D2, D3, D4, and D1 groups (data not shown).

187 ***Differences in gut microbial components***

188 The linear discriminant analysis (LDA) effect size (LEfSe) analysis according to
189 LDA scores was performed by using non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis rank-sum test to
190 detect species with significant differences between groups. The results showed that as
191 compared with healthy subjects (D1 group), the phylum *Proteobacteria*, class
192 *Gammaproteobacteria* and order *Lactobacillales* were more abundant in type 2
193 diabetes patients (D2 group), whereas the genus *Faecalibacterium* was lower (Figure
194 4A and 4B). In cholelithiasis patients (D3 group), the relative abundances of
195 *Bacteroidetes* taxa groups including class *Bacteroidia*, order *Bacteroidales*, family
196 *Bacteroidaceae* and genus *Bacteroides* were significantly increased, and the phylum
197 *Firmicutes* and genus *Faecalibacterium* were significantly decreased (Figure 4C and
198 4D). In patients with type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis (D4 group), both
199 *Proteobacteria* taxa groups including class *Gammaproteobacteria*, order
200 *Enterobacteriales*, family *Enterobacteriaceae* and genus *unidentified*
201 *Enterobacteriaceae*, and class *Bacilli* taxa groups including order *Lactobacillales*,
202 family *Lactobacillaceae* and genus *Lactobacillus*, were significantly enriched. On the
203 contrary, *Firmicutes* taxa groups including class *Clostridia*, order *Clostridiales*, family
204 *Ruminococcaceae*, genera *Faecalibacterium*, *Megamonas* and *Subdoligranulum* were
205 significantly decreased (Figure 4E and 4F).

206 As compared with type 2 diabetes patients (D2 group), the *Proteobacteria* taxa
207 groups which includes class *Gammaproteobacteria*, order *Enterobacteriales* and
208 family *Enterobacteriaceae* were significantly increased in type 2 diabetes complicated
209 with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) (Figure 5A and 5B). However, there exists more
210 species with significant differences between cholelithiasis patients (D3 group) and type

211 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients (D4 group) (Figure 5C and 5D).
212 From these results, we found that the tendency of gut microbiota alterations in type 2
213 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients was more similar with mere type 2
214 diabetes patients, rather than cholelithiasis patients.

215 **DISCUSSION**

216 Several studies have shown that gut microbiota is partially associated with the
217 pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes^[14] and cholelithiasis^[15]. Epidemiological studies
218 indicated that diabetes patients have an increased risk of gallstones formation^[7,8].
219 However, no association study has been carried out to clarify the underlying role of gut
220 microbiota in developing from type 2 diabetes to cholelithiasis. This study
221 demonstrated the intricate gut microbiota dysbiosis present with type 2 diabetes
222 complicated with cholelithiasis and discovered an underlying association between type
223 2 diabetes and type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis, that is, gut microbiota
224 has the potential to promote type 2 diabetes progressing to type 2 diabetes complicated
225 with cholelithiasis. This is the first study to clarify the microbial composition of gut
226 with type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis. The results of this study suggested
227 that the gut microbiota alterations of type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis
228 patients was similar but more intricate compared with mere type 2 diabetes patients,
229 which were supported with methods such as PCoA analysis, UPGMA analysis and
230 LEfSe analysis, as will be discussed in the following.

231 This study discovered similar but more intricate changes of gut microbial
232 composition in type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients compared with
233 mere type 2 diabetes patients. Unweighted unifrac-based PCoA analysis identified a
234 high degree of microbial community structure similarity between type 2 diabetes
235 complicated with cholelithiasis patients and type 2 diabetes patients (Figure 2D).
236 Meanwhile, 94 OTUs were shared by type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis
237 patients and type 2 diabetes patients by Venn diagram (Figure 4B). However, weighted
238 unifrac-based UPGMA analysis at the phylum level showed that type 2 diabetes
239 complicated with cholelithiasis patients and type 2 diabetes patients were grouped into

240 different clusters (Figure 4A), suggesting there exists unique gut microbial components,
241 which might complicate the gut microbiota dysbiosis. Interestingly, serum triglyceride
242 and total bile acids levels were significantly increased compared with mere
243 cholelithiasis patients (Figure 1). The abnormal metabolism condition indirectly
244 reflects the intricate gut microbiota dysbiosis within type 2 diabetes complicated with
245 cholelithiasis patients.

246 Within the gut of cholelithiasis patients, the *Bacteroidetes* taxa groups which
247 includes various pathogens such as *Bacteroidia*, *Bacteroidales*, *Bacteroidaceae* and
248 *Bacteroides* were significantly increased, the phylum *Firmicutes* and genus
249 *Faecalibacterium* were notably decreased (Figure 5C and D). However, within the gut
250 of type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients, *Proteobacteriataxa* groups
251 including *Gammaproteobacteria*, *Enterobacteriales*, *Enterobacteriaceae* and
252 *unidentified Enterobacteriaceae* were significantly enriched, the phylum *Firmicutes*
253 and genera *Faecalibacterium*, *Megamonas* and *Subdoligranulum* were significantly
254 decreased (Figure 5E and F), which were quite different from mere cholelithiasis
255 patients but partial similar with mere type 2 diabetes patients (Figure 5A and B).
256 Furthermore, we found that there exists an increase of the phylum *Proteobacteria* taxa
257 groups which includes *Gammaproteobacteria*, *Enterobacteriales* and
258 *Enterobacteriaceae* in type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients
259 compared with mere type 2 diabetes patients (Figure 6A and B), which mainly
260 containing opportunistic pathogenic bacteria of human beings. The results suggested
261 that type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients had similar but more
262 intricate gut microbiota dysbiosis compared with mere type 2 diabetes patients. These
263 bacterial species with significant differences might have a potential association with
264 cholelithiasis occurrence in type 2 diabetes patients.

265 Gut microbiota can regulate bile acids metabolism^[21]. The abnormal metabolism of
266 bile acids is the main pathogenesis of cholesterol gallstones^[6]. Several studies have
267 indicated that gut microbiota can suppress bile acids synthesis through activating the

nuclear receptor Farnesol X receptor (FXR)^[22,23]. The phyla *Actinobacteria*, *Proteobacteria*, *Firmicutes* and *Bacteroidetes* can produce hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases (HSDHs), which can catalyze bile acids into oxo- (or keto-) bile acids^[24-26]. Some bacteria such as *Lactobacilli*, *Bifidobacteria* and *Bacteroides* can secrete bile salt hydrolase (BSH) and then de-conjugate bile acids, thus regulate the microbial metabolism of bile acids^[27-29]. In this study, the relative abundance of *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Bacteroides* were increased in the gut of type 2 diabetes patients, suggesting that the changes of bacteria with BSH activity in type 2 diabetes patients might lead to the abnormal metabolism of bile acids and subsequently contribute to the pathogenesis of cholelithiasis, which explained that diabetes patients are at an increased risk of developing cholelithiasis from the perspective of gut microbiota. However, further research is still needed to investigate the effect of these bacteria on gallstone formation.

CONCLUSION

Gut microbial characteristics and abnormal metabolism condition in type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis patients was first discovered in this study, that is, the gut microbial composition was partial similar with type 2 diabetes patients, whereas present with more intricate gut microbiota dysbiosis. The results of this study suggested that there exists certain bacterial species in type 2 diabetes patients, which are associated with the occurrence of cholelithiasis. Thus, maintaining the gut microbiota homeostasis of type 2 diabetes patients might help reduce the risk of subsequently developing cholelithiasis.

METHODS

Patients and feces collection

From September 2017 to September 2018, 53 patients with mere type 2 diabetes from the department of endocrinology, 31 patients with mere cholelithiasis and 32 patients with type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis from the department of general surgery, and 33 healthy subjects from the department of physical examination

296 were enrolled, with average age of 58.5 ± 9.6 and a male ratio of 45.6%. None of patients
297 indicated that they had any other infectious or underlying diseases. None of the healthy
298 subjects indicated that they had suffered type 2 diabetes, cholelithiasis, or any other
299 infectious and metabolic diseases. All participants have not been treated with antibiotics
300 in the last three months. The metabolic indexes were derived from retrospective medical
301 records. Feces samples from all patients and healthy subjects were collected and placed
302 in sterile Eppendorf tube, glycerin was added to final concentration of 20%. All feces
303 samples were stored at -80°C .

304 ***DNA preparation, library construction, and sequencing***

305 Genomic DNA was extracted from feces samples using the QIAamp DNA Stool
306 Mini Kit (Qiagen) and then agarose gel electrophoresis was performed to detect the
307 purity and concentration of extracted DNA. As template, the qualified genomic DNA
308 was prepared with concentration of $1\text{ ng}/\mu\text{l}$ to amplify gene sequence in V4 region of
309 bacteria 16S ribosomal RNA. The forward primer (515F) was
310 5'-GTGCCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA-3'. The reverse primer (806R) was
311 5'-GGACTACHVGGGTWTCTAAT-3'. Then the PCR products were mixed with equal
312 amounts and purified by GeneJETTM PCR Purification Kit (Thermo). DNA libraries
313 were prepared with Ion Plus Fragment Library Kit (Thermo) and then sequenced on
314 Thermoscher's Ion S5TM XL platform. After shearing the low-quality reads by using
315 Cutadapt (V1.9.1), the sample data was separated from the obtained reads according to
316 barcode. The barcode and primer sequences were truncated to obtain the raw data (raw
317 reads). Then, the chimeric sequence was detected and removed by comparing raw reads
318 sequence with species annotation database according to UCHIME Algorithm. Finally,
319 the final effective data was obtained (clean reads).

320 ***Processing of sequencing data and bioinformatics analysis***

321 All clean reads data were clustered as OTUs according to 97% identity. Species
322 annotation of these OTUs were performed using mothur method (with a threshold of
323 0.8~1). Classification information at each level were obtained: from kingdom to species.

324 Finally, the data of each sample were homogenized. QIIME (version 1.9.1) was used to
325 calculate community diversity index and unifrac distance (alpha diversity and beta
326 diversity analysis). The rarefaction curve, rank abundance curve, species accumulation
327 curve, microbial abundance histogram, Venn diagram and UPGMA group clustering tree
328 were drawn using R software (version 2.15.3). LEfSe analysis was performed using
329 LEfSe software with a default setting of LDA Score = 4.

330 **Statistical analyses**

331 SPSS 16.0 (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) and R software (version 2.15.3) were
332 used for statistical analysis. General characteristics are expressed as mean±standard
333 deviation (SD), mean±standard error of mean (SEM) or percentage. Kruskal-Wallis
334 non-parametric test was used for multiple group comparison. Student's t-test and
335 Wilcoxon rank-sum test were used for two group comparison. $P<0.05$ was considered
336 statistically significant.

337

338 **Ethics**

339 The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Peking University Shougang
340 Hospital (SGYYZ201701). All study participants provided informed written consent
341 prior to study enrollment.

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347 **Author contributions**

348 Gu J and Hu SK designed and coordinated the study; Chen JJ, Yan LL and Ma XF
349 performed the experiments; Chen JJ and Yan LL analyzed the data and wrote the
350 manuscript; Yuan P, Zhao F, Han ZH, Liu JS, Wang WB, Zhou DH, Zhao HY, Feng N
351 and Huang DD contributed reagents and materials.

352 **Conflict of interest statement**

353 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

354 **Supplementary Material:**

355 Figure S1 Quality analysis of sequencing data.

356 Figure S2 Relative abundance of each sample at the phylum level.

357 Figure S3 Relative abundance of each sample at the genus level.

358

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455 **Figure Legends**

456 **Figure 1: Serum metabolites levels.** A: Blood glucose, total cholesterol and
457 triglyceride levels in D2, D3 and D4 groups; B: Total bile acids levels in D3 and D4
458 groups. The levels were expressed as mean \pm SEM. (D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3:
459 Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis. $^aP<0.05$, $^bP<0.01$,
460 $^cP<0.001$, Unpaired Student's t-test.)

461 **Figure 2: Gut microbial diversity analysis.** A: Observed species, the scatter
462 distribution of total number of species, namely the richness; B: Shannon index, namely
463 species diversity and evenness; C: Unweighted unifrac based-beta diversity analysis,
464 assessing gut microbial community differences; D: PCoA, showing the microbial
465 community structure similarity. (D1: Healthy subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3:
466 Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis. $^aP<0.05$, $^bP<0.01$,
467 $^cP<0.001$; A, B, C: Wilcoxon rank-sum test; D: AMOVA)

468 **Figure 3: The composition of gut microbiota in 4 groups.** A: Showing the top 10
469 phyla; B: Showing the top 10 genera. C: Weighted unifrac distance based-UPGMA
470 cluster tree analysis at the phylum level, left: UPGMA clustering tree structure, right:
471 relative abundance distribution of species; D: Unique and shared OTUs of gut
472 microbiota among four groups are represented by Venn diagram. These numbers show
473 the number of OTUs in different groups. There is a total of 3006 OTUs. (D1: Healthy
474 subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with
475 cholelithiasis.)

476 **Figure 4: Different structures of gut microbiota in patients and healthy subjects**
477 **by LEfSe analysis.** A,C,E: Specific species of gut microbiota between two groups by
478 LEfSe analysis, the histogram shows the LDA scores, the lateral text shows the
479 different species between two groups; B,D,F: LEfSe cladogram, showing the
480 different species from phylum level (outer circle) to species level (inner circle), the red
481 and green cladogram represent different groups, the abundance is proportional to the
482 diameter of circle. A,B: D2 vs D1 groups; C,D: D3 vs D1 groups; E,F: D4 vs D1 groups.
483 LDA SCORE=4. (D1: Healthy subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4:
484 type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis.)

485 **Figure 5: Different structures of gut microbiota among disease groups by LEfSe**
486 **analysis.** A,C: Specific species of gut microbiota between two groups by LEfSe
487 analysis, the histogram shows the LDA scores, the lateral text shows the different

488 species between two groups; B,D: LEfSe cladogram, showing the different species
489 from phylum level (outer circle) to species level (inner circle), the red and green
490 cladogram represent different groups, the abundance is proportional to the diameter of
491 circle. A,B: D4 vs D2 groups; C,D: D4 vs D3 groups. LDA SCORE = 4. (D2: Type 2
492 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis.)

Table 1 Characteristics of clinical samples and data

D1 group (healthy subjects, n=33)	D2 group (type 2 diabetes, n=53)	D3 group (cholelithiasis, n=31)	D4 group (type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis, n=32)	Total (n=149)
Age (mean ± SD)	51.0±4.5	61.6±9.7	60.1±11.0	59.5±7.8
Male (no. ,%)	17, 51.5%	29, 54.7%	8, 25.8%	14, 43.8%
Total OTUs	2232	2246	1971	2009
OTUs per samples*	705.0±122.7	661.1±114.5	700.5±94.0	622.9±117.3
				670.8±116.2

*P<0.05, using Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric test.

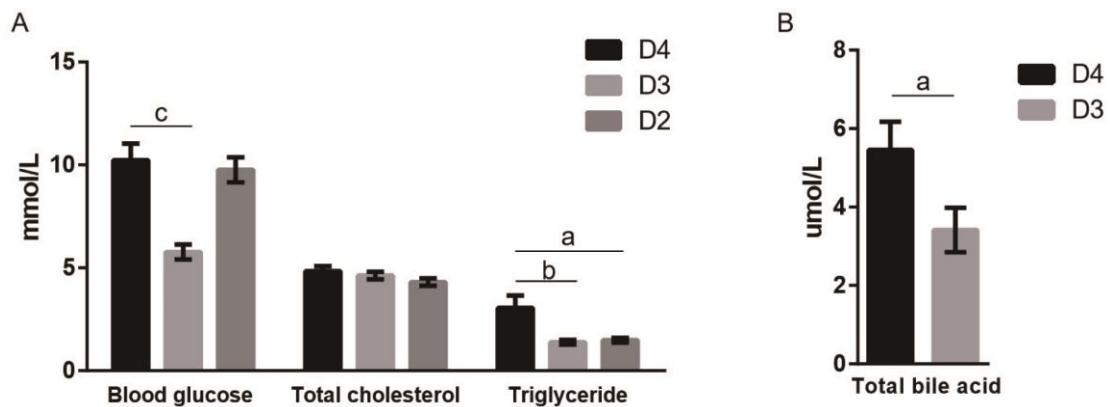


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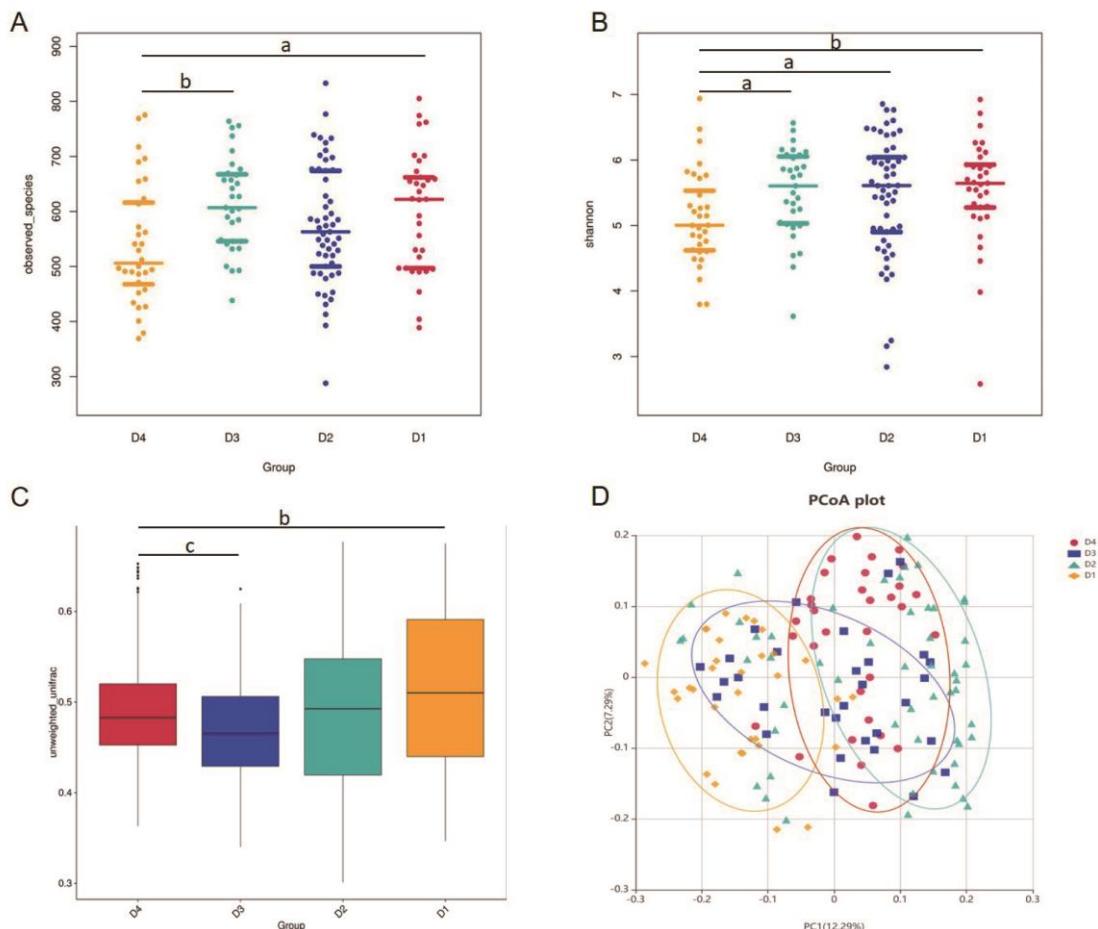


Figure 2: Gut microbial diversity analysis. A: Observed species, the scatter distribution of total number of species, namely the richness; B: Shannon index, namely species diversity and evenness; C: Unweighted unifrac based-beta diversity analysis, assessing gut microbial community differences; D: PCoA, showing the microbial community structure similarity. (D1: Healthy subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis. ^a $P<0.05$, ^b $P<0.01$, ^c $P<0.001$; A, B, C: Wilcoxon rank-sum test; D: AMOVA)

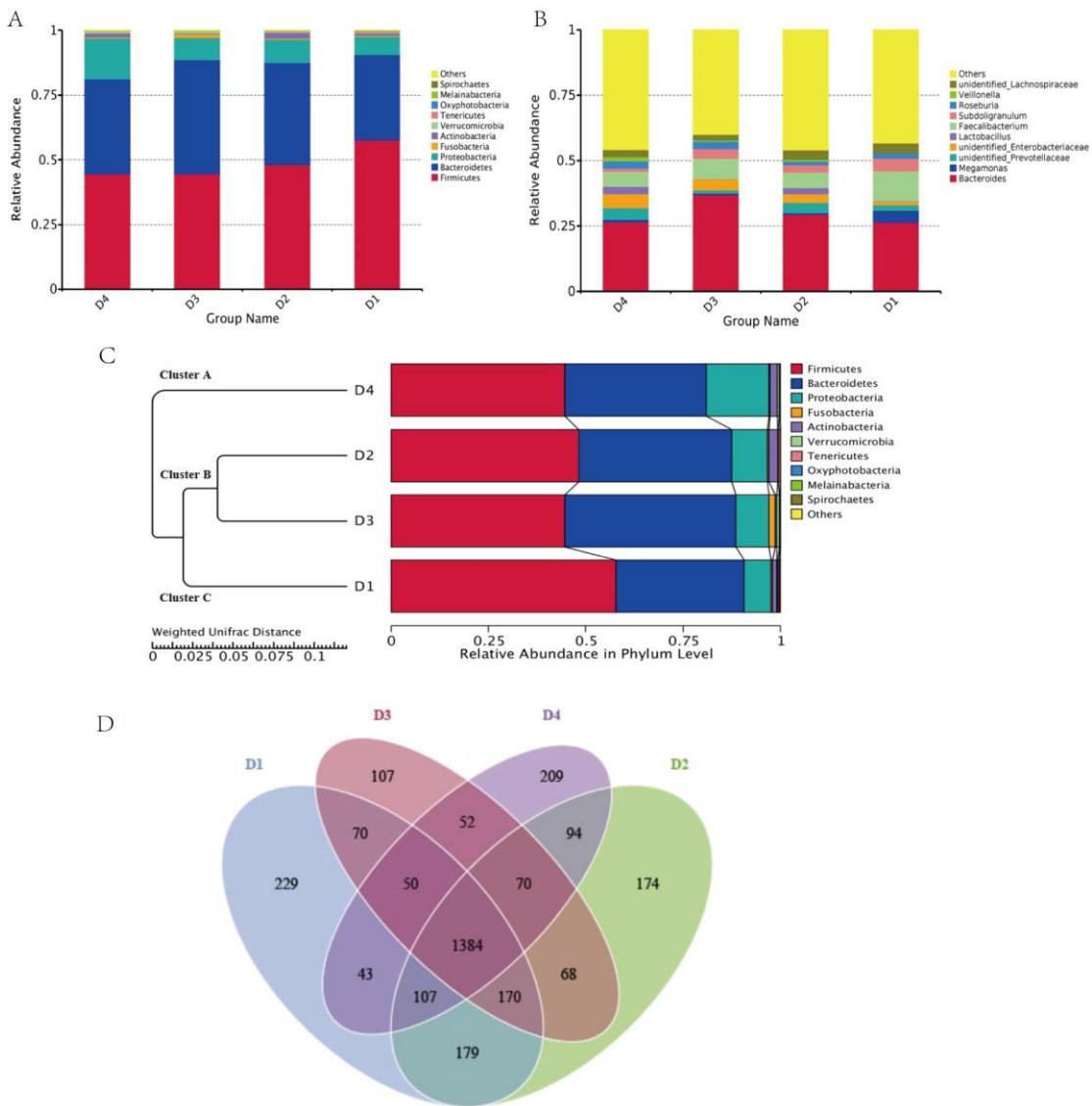


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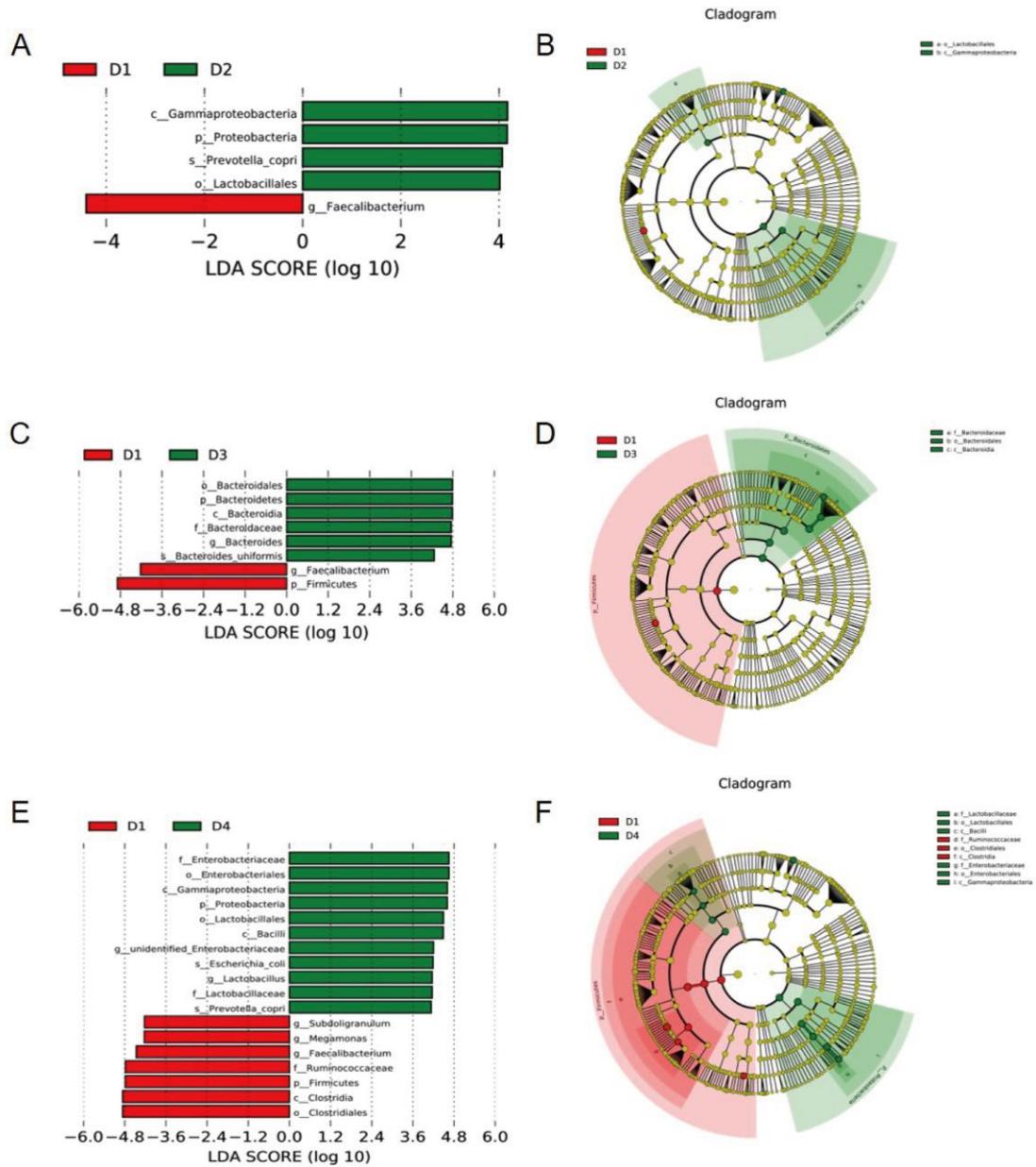


Figure 4: Different structures of gut microbiota in patients and healthy subjects by LEfSe analysis. A,C,E: Specific species of gut microbiota between two groups by LEfSe analysis, the histogram shows the LDA scores, the lateral text shows the different species between two groups; B,D,F: LEfSe cladogram, showing the different species from phylum level (outer circle) to species level (inner circle), the red and green cladogram represent different groups, the abundance is proportional to the diameter of circle. A,B: D2 vs D1 groups; C,D: D3 vs D1 groups; E,F: D4 vs D1 groups. LDA SCORE=4. (D1: Healthy subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis.)

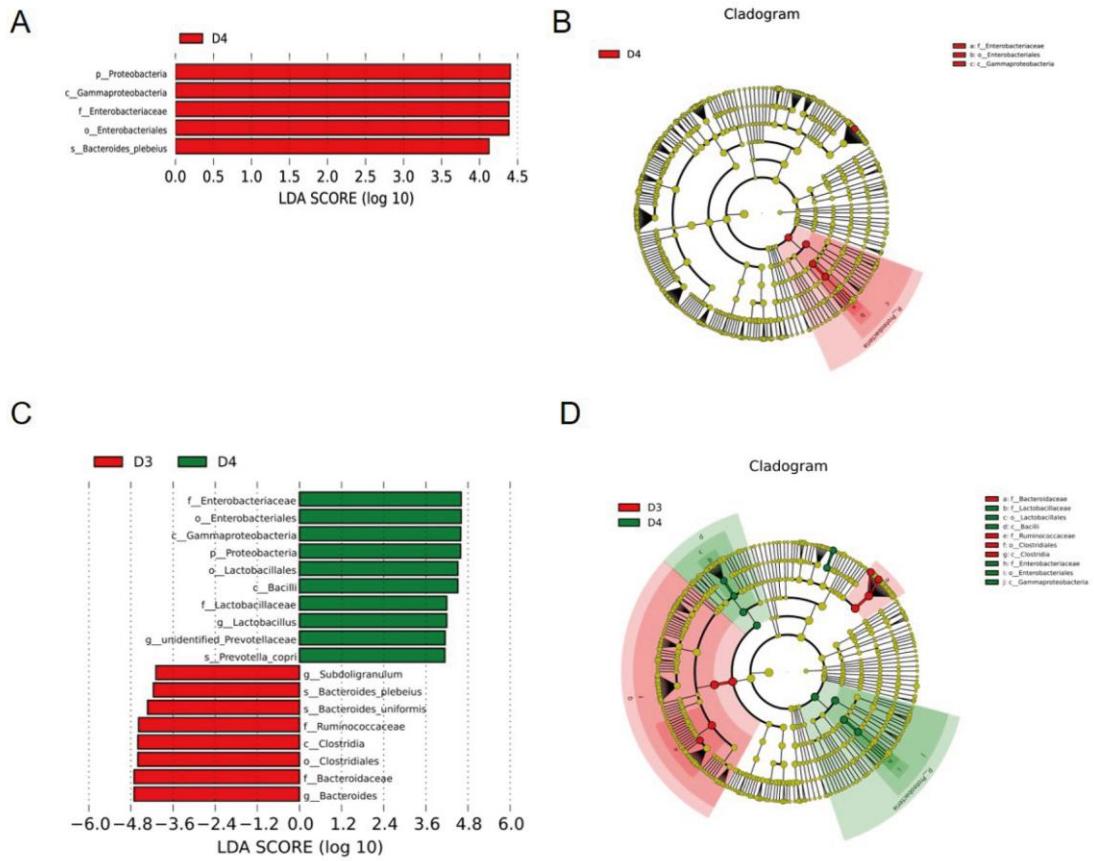


Figure 5: Different structures of gut microbiota among disease groups by LEfSe analysis. A,C: Specific species of gut microbiota between two groups by LEfSe analysis, the histogram shows the LDA scores, the lateral text shows the different species between two groups; B,D: LEfSe cladogram, showing the different species from phylum level (outer circle) to species level (inner circle), the red and green cladogram represent different groups, the abundance is proportional to the diameter of circle. A,B: D4 vs D2 groups; C,D: D4 vs D3 groups. LDA SCORE = 4. (D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis.)

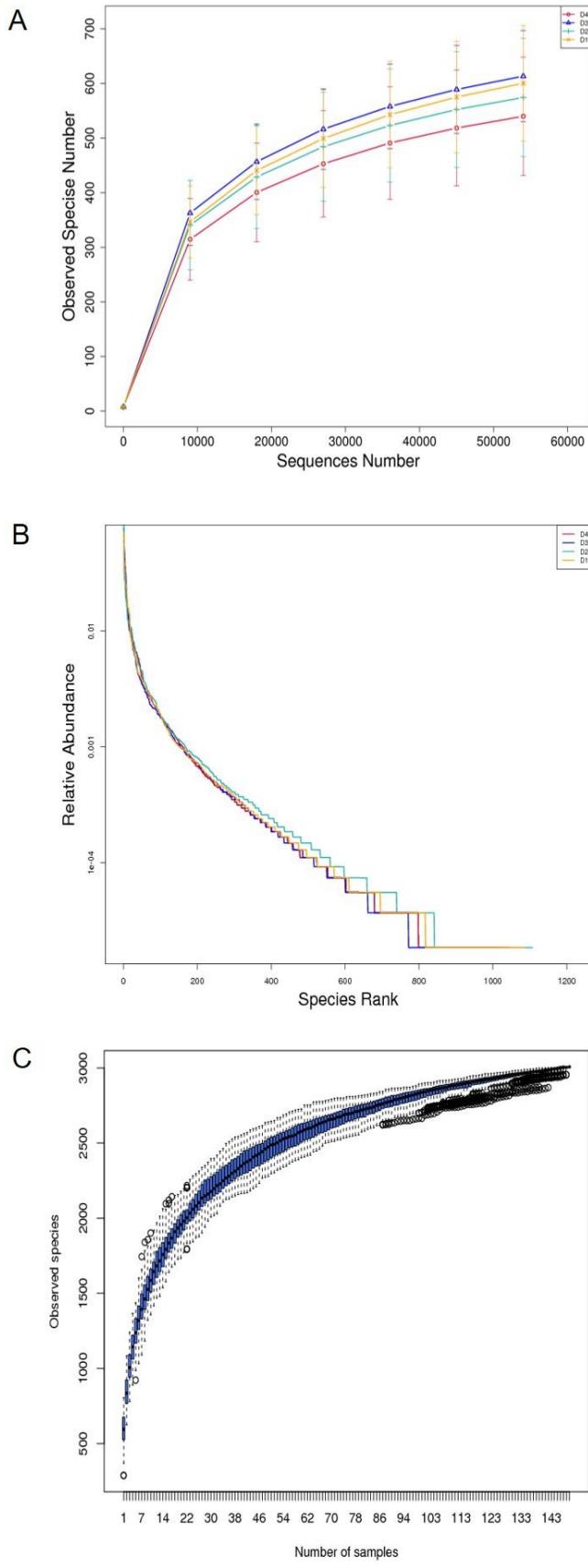


Fig S1

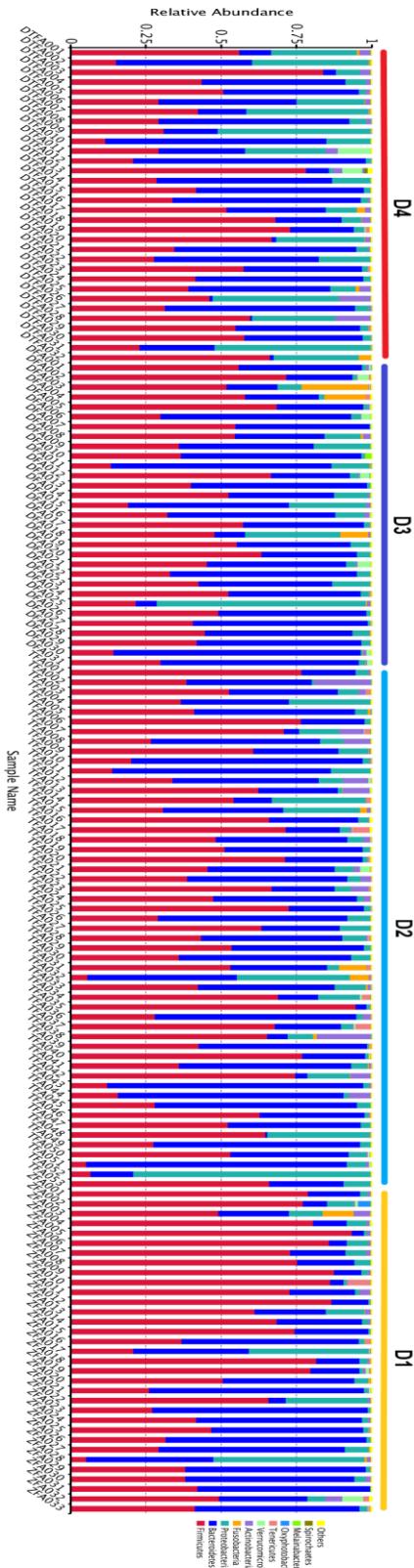


Fig S2

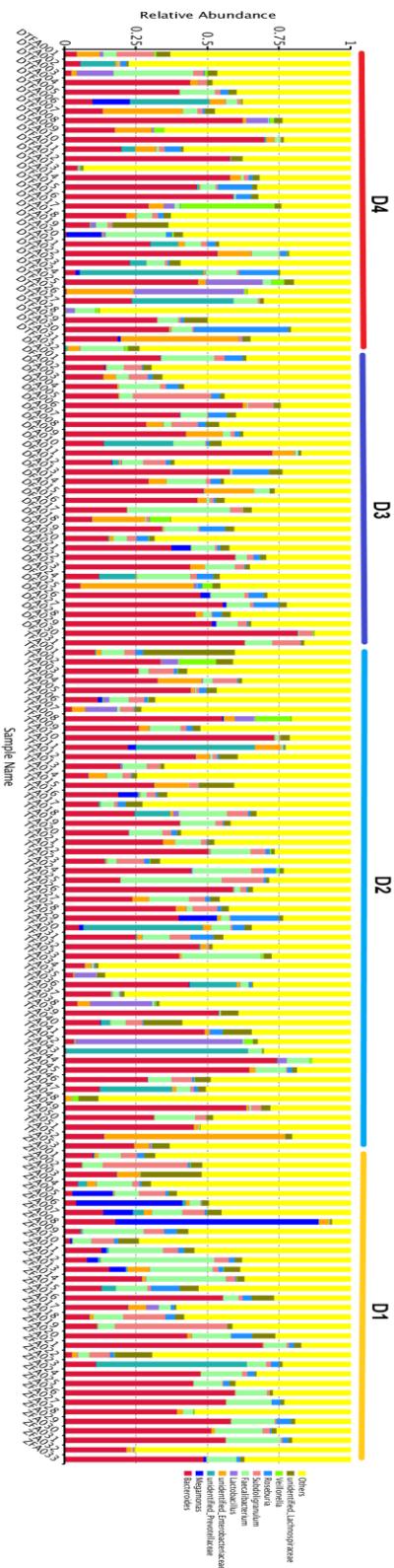


Fig S3

Figures

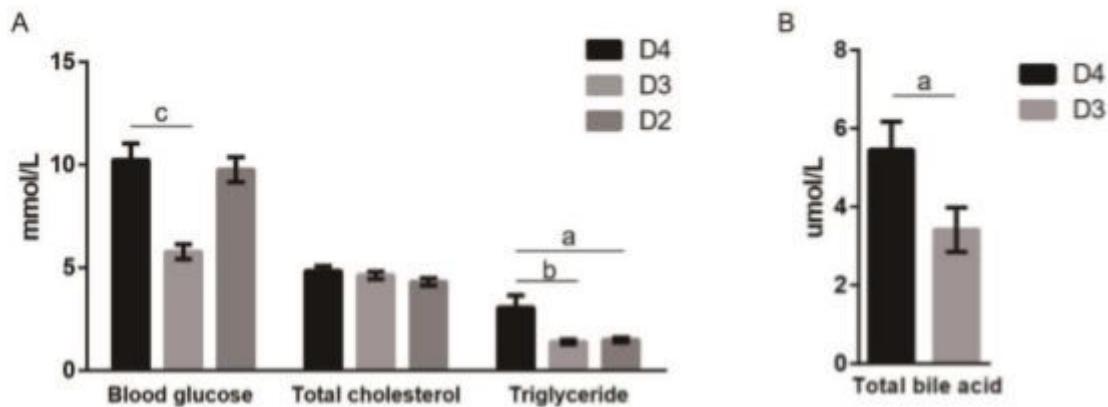


Figure 1

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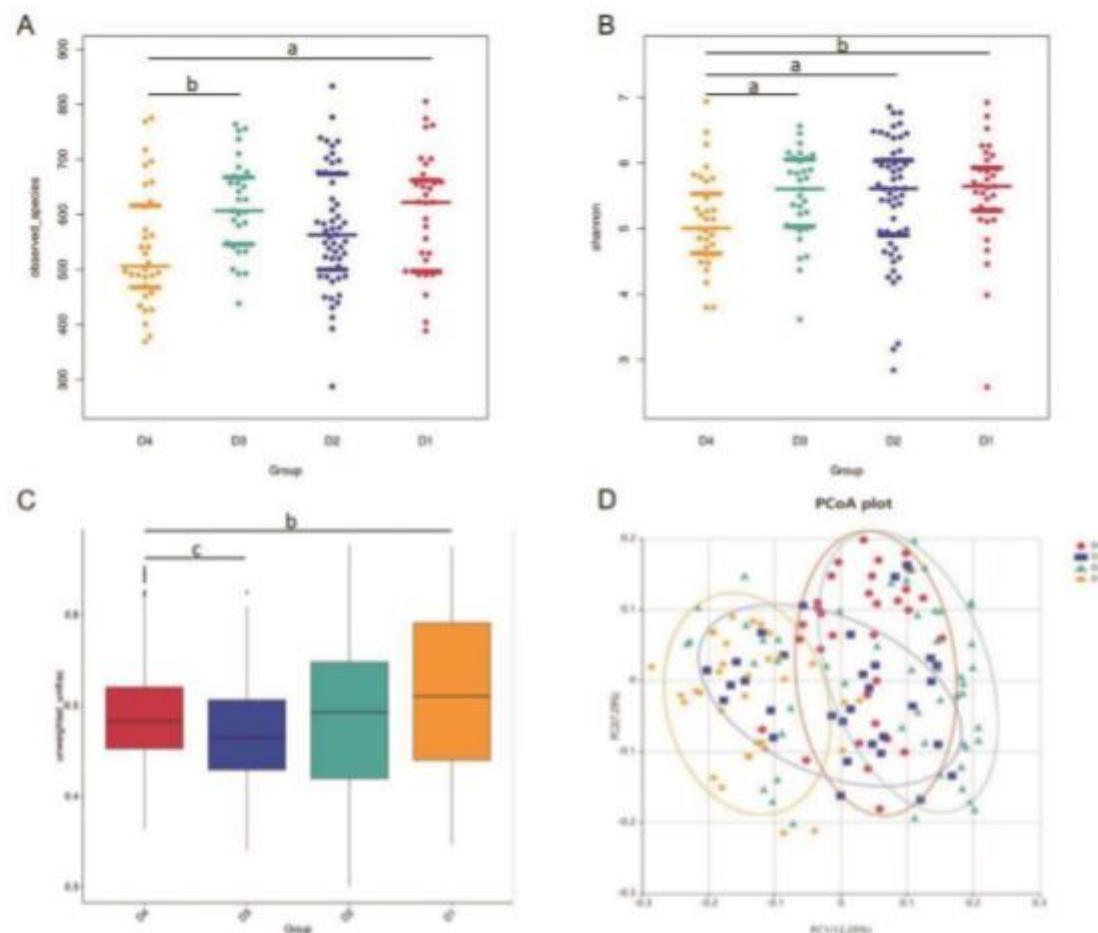


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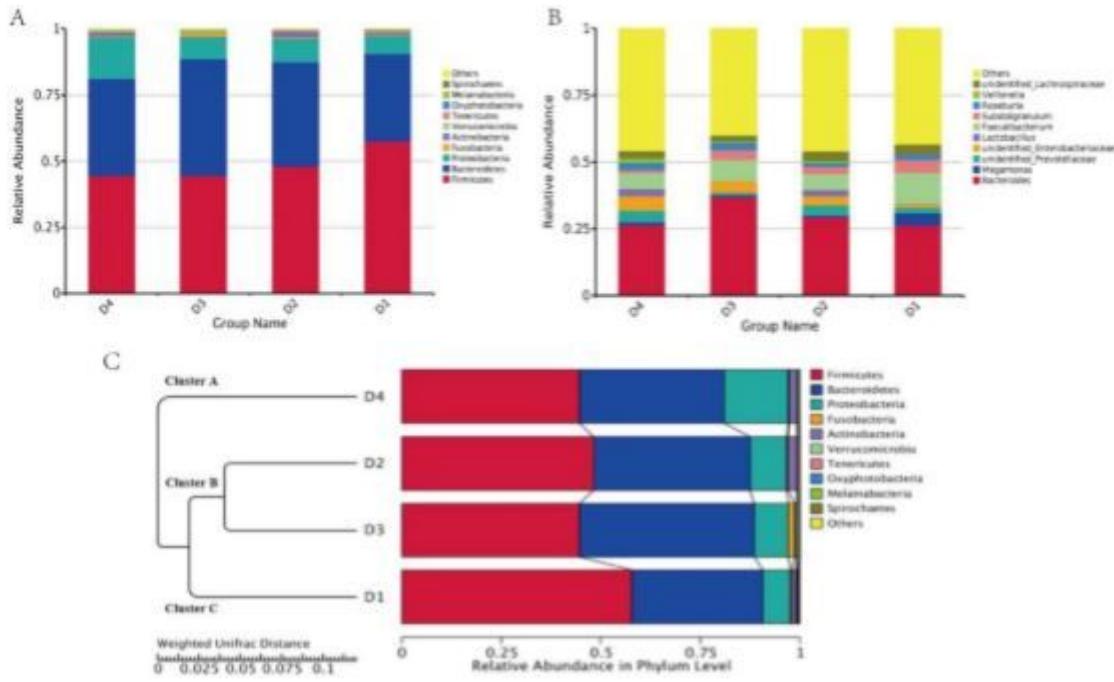


Figure 3

Gut microbial diversity analysis. A: Observed species, the scatter distribution of total number of species, namely the richness; B: Shannon index, namely species diversity and evenness; C: Unweighted unifrac based-beta diversity analysis, assessing gut microbial community differences; D: PCoA, showing the microbial community structure similarity. (D1: Healthy subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis;

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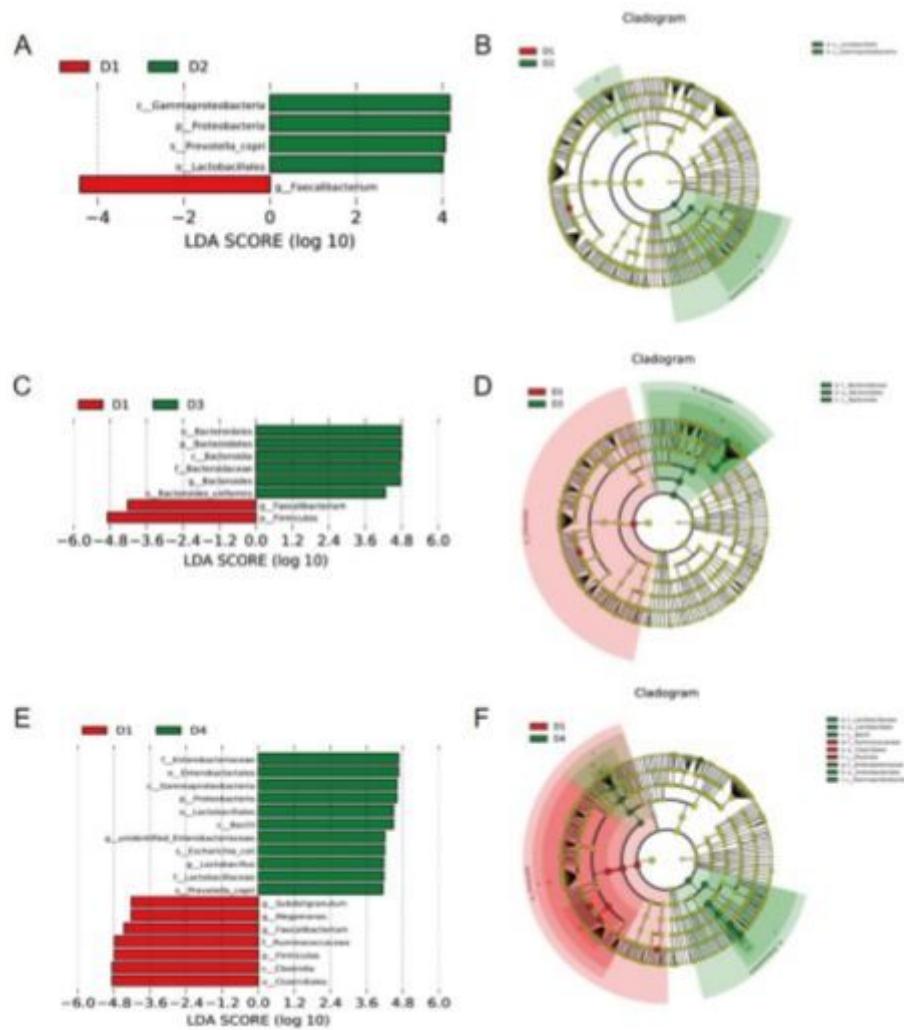


Figure 4

Different structures of gut microbiota in patients and healthy subjects by LEfSe analysis. A,C,E: Specific species of gut microbiota between two groups by LEfSe analysis, the histogram shows the LDA scores, the lateral text shows the different species between two groups; B,D,F: LEfSe cladogram, showing the different species from phylum level (outer circle) to species level (inner circle), the red and green cladogram represent different groups, the abundance is proportional to the diameter of circle. A,B: D2 vs D1 groups; C,D: D3 vs D1 groups; E,F: D4 vs D1 groups. LDA SCORE=4. (D1: Healthy subjects; D2: Type 2 diabetes; D3: Cholelithiasis; D4: type 2 diabetes complicated with cholelithiasis.)

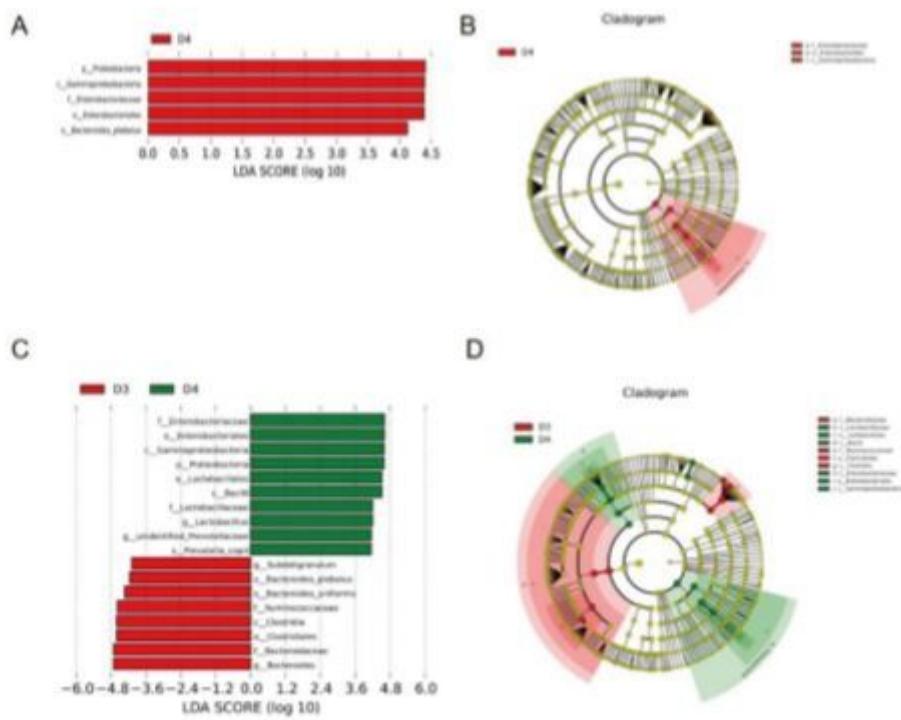


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