

Table S1 Characteristics of patients with DR.

Characteristic	DR Patients	Controls
Patients	10	10
Clinical features		
Male/female	5/5	6/4
Age (years)	56.8 ± 7.3	58.6 ± 8.9
Type 1/type 2 diabetes	2/8	0
Duration of diabetes (years)	4.8 ± 2.7	0
Insulin treatment	3	0
Hypertension	3	4
Dyslipidaemia	3	3
Retinal features		
Microaneurysm	7	0
Hard exudates	6	0
Cotton-wool spots	4	0
Retinal haemorrhage	6	0
Retinal angiogenesis	5	0
Vitreous haemorrhage	3	0
Macular oedema	2	0
Therapies		
Intravitreal injection of anti-VEGF agents	9	0
Pan-retinal laser photocoagulation	2	0

Table S2. Primers sequence for real time PCR

Gene name	Orientation	Primer sequence (5' to 3')	Species
<i>Il21</i>	Forward	GGGGACAGTGGCCCATAAATC	Mouse
	Reverse	GTGCCCCTTTACATCTTGTGG	Mouse
<i>Cxcl13</i>	Forward	ATATGTGTGAATCCTCGTGCCA	Mouse
	Reverse	GGGAGTTGAAGACAGACTTTTGC	Mouse
<i>vegf</i>	Forward	CTGCCGTCCGATTGAGACC	Mouse
	Reverse	CCCCTCCTTGTACCACTGTC	Mouse
<i>il-6</i>	Forward	TCTATAACCACTTCACAAGTCGGA	Mouse
	Reverse	GAATTGCCATTGCACAACCTCTTT	Mouse
<i>tnf-α</i>	Forward	CAGGCGGTGCCTATGTCTC	Mouse
	Reverse	CGATCACCCCGAAGTTCAGTAGTAA	Mouse
<i>Cxcr5</i>	Forward	TGGCCTTCTACAGTAACAGCA	Mouse
	Reverse	GCATGAATACCGCCTTAAAGGAC	Mouse
<i>Bcl-6</i>	Forward	CCGGCACGCTAGTGATGTT	Mouse
	Reverse	GCACTGTCTTATGGGCTCTAAAC	Mouse
<i>gapdh</i>	Forward	GCCAAGGCTGTGGGCAAGGT	Mouse
	Reverse	TCTCCAGGCGGCACGTCAGA	Mouse