



Supplementary Material. The primer sequences designed for target genes

The primers used for *LC3B*, *p62*, and *Beclin-1* were as follows: *LC3B* 5'- GGT GAG AAG CAG CTT CCT GT-3' and antisense 5'- AGA TTG GTG TGG AGA CGC TG -3', *p62* 5'- GGG CTT TGG TAC CTG GTA CA3' and antisense 5'- AGG AGG TGG AGG CAA AGG TA-3', *Beclin-1* 5'-GGA CAC TCA GCT CAA CGT CA-3' and antisense 5'- TTT CCA CGT CTT CCA GCT CC-3'. Predesigned primers for human *hAggrecan*, *hSOX9*, *hCol2a1*, and *hGAPDH* were as follows: *hAggrecan* 5'- CTACGACGCCATCTGCTACA-3', and antisense 5'-GGCTTCACCCTCAGTGATGT-3'; *hSOX9* 5'- ATCAAGACGGAGCAGCTGAG-3', and antisense 5'-GAGCTGGAGTTCTGGTGGTC-3'; *hCol2a1* 5'- GGCTCCCAGAACATCACCTA-3', and antisense 5'-ATCCTTCAGGGCAGTGTACG-3'; *hGAPDH* 5'-TTCAGCTCTGGGATGACCTT-3', and antisense 5'- CTCATGACCACAGTCCATGC-3'.