

**Table SI.** Parametric distribution.

<b>A, Normal</b>				
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Shapiro-Wilk</b>	<b>Skewness</b>	<b>Kurtosis</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Cartilage deterioration	0.870	0.069	-0.884	Non-normal
Thickness	0.742	0.281	-0.622	Non-normal
Proteoglycan intensity	0.230	0.798	0.535	Non-normal
Empty lacunae	0.419	1.812	3.727	Non-normal
Apoptosis	0.240	-2.394	6.637	Non-normal
<b>B, Hyaluronic acid</b>				
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Shapiro-Wilk</b>	<b>Skewness</b>	<b>Kurtosis</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Cartilage deterioration	0.789	0.381	0.323	Non-normal
Thickness	0.397	-0.056	0.086	Non-normal
Proteoglycan intensity	0.323	0.282	-1.852	Non-normal
Empty lacunae	0.514	-0.913	0.641	Non-normal
Apoptosis	0.074	1.775	3.874	Non-normal
<b>C, Triamcinolone acetone</b>				
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Shapiro-Wilk</b>	<b>Skewness</b>	<b>Kurtosis</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Cartilage deterioration	0.796	0.271	-1.078	Non-normal
Thickness	0.814	0.520	-0.061	Non-normal
Proteoglycan intensity	0.421	0.202	0.666	Non-normal
Empty lacunae	0.143	0.566	-0.848	Non-normal
Apoptosis	0.696	0.516	1.232	Non-normal