**Supplemental Table S1: Primer sequences and specifications.**

Genes were searched in the NCBI database and imported in PerlPrimer [Marshall2004]. Primers were derived based on an amplicon size of 75-125 base pairs, a length of 17-24 nucleotides, a GC-content of 40-65%, melting temperature of 56-62 °C, an exon-exon junction spanning amplicon and where possible boundary-overlapping primers. Primers were checked for dimers, hairpins and secondary amplicon structures and a set of forward and reverse primers for each gene was ordered (Biolegio, Nijmegen, the Netherlands). The *HPRT* gene was used as normalizing gene [de Kok2005]. Sequences and specifications of all primers are listed in Supplemental Table 1. Efficiency and specificity of the primers were tested using the IQ™SYBR® Green Supermix on a CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Veenendaal, Netherlands). The PCR products were checked for quality and product size by melting curve analysis and agarose gel electrophoresis.

| Gene | Accession Number | Sequence 5'→ 3' | Exon boundary overlapping |
|---|---|---|---|
| *GATA1*<br>*GATA binding protein 1*<br>*(globin transcription factor 1)* | NM_002049.3 | FP: AAGAAGCGCCTGATTGTC<br>RP: GCATTTCTCCGCCACAG | yes |
| *GATA3*<br>*GATA binding protein 3* | NM_001002295.1<br>NM_002051.2 | FP: CAGACCACCACAACCACAC<br>RP:<br>TGCCTTCCTTCTTCATAGTCAG | no |
| *GATA4*<br>*GATA binding protein 4* | NM_001308093.1<br>NM_002052.4 | FP: TCTACATGAAGCTCCACGGG<br>RP: TATTCAGGTTCTTGGGCTTCC | no |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NM_001308094.1 | | |
| *GATA6*<br>*GATA binding protein 6* | NM_005257.5 | FP: GAGGGAATTCAAACCAGGA<br>RP: GTTGGAGTCATGGGAATGG | no |
| *MC2R*<br>*melanocortin 2 receptor*<br>*(ACTH receptor)* | NM_000529.2 | FP:<br>CAGAGCTGAAGGTGATTGGGA<br>RP: AAGGCGGGGATGTTACTTGG | no |
| *CYP11B1*<br>*11β-hydroxylase* | NM_000497.3 | FP: GGCAGAGGCAGAGATGCTG<br>RP:<br>TCTTGGGTTAGTGTCTCCACCTG | yes |
| *HPRT* | NM_000194.2 | FP:<br>TATTGTAATGACCAGTCAACAG<br>RP: GGTCCTTTTCACCAGCAAG | yes |