Reviewer 1

We thank the reviewer for the kind appraisal of our work. As advised, the discussion section has been shortened as much as possible.

Reviewer 2

We thank the reviewer for the kind appraisal of our work. As advocated by the reviewer, studies are already in progress in our Institutions to address some of the limitations of this one, using more innovative technologies on a larger sample size with a longer follow-up.

Reviewer 3

We thank the reviewer for the kind appraisal of our work. Text has been now revised to answer minor concerns.

1. Tables 1 and 2 have been implemented with HbA1c value range.
2. Figure 1, legend has been emended to clarify that the outliers have been included in the statistical analysis.
3. Information on the number of patients included in each group (Q1….Q4) has been added to Figure 4.
4. Mean time of follow up of patients has been reported on page 11, line 3.