Supplementary Fig. 1. Examples of plaque histological features in carotid endarterectomy specimens (hematoxylin and eosin stain, ×40).

Supplementary Fig. 2. Immunohistochemistry was graded using the following semiquantitative scale: 0=no stained cells (A), 1=occasional scattered cells or 1 group of ≥20 cells (B), 2=several groups (<5) of ≥20 cells (C), and 3=many groups (≥5) of ≥20 cells or 1 group of ≥100 cells (D).
Supplementary Fig. 3. Immunoblotting results in different carotid plaques. (A) Tissue extracts from four different atherosclerotic arteries were analyzed by Western blotting for MMP-2. (B) Quantitation of Western blot images of the ratio between MMP-2 and β-actin. (C)-(F) The immunohistochemical expression of MMP-2 (×400) was correlated with Western blot data. MMP: matrix metalloproteinase.