

Endothelial Piezo1 sustains muscle capillary density and contributes to physical activity

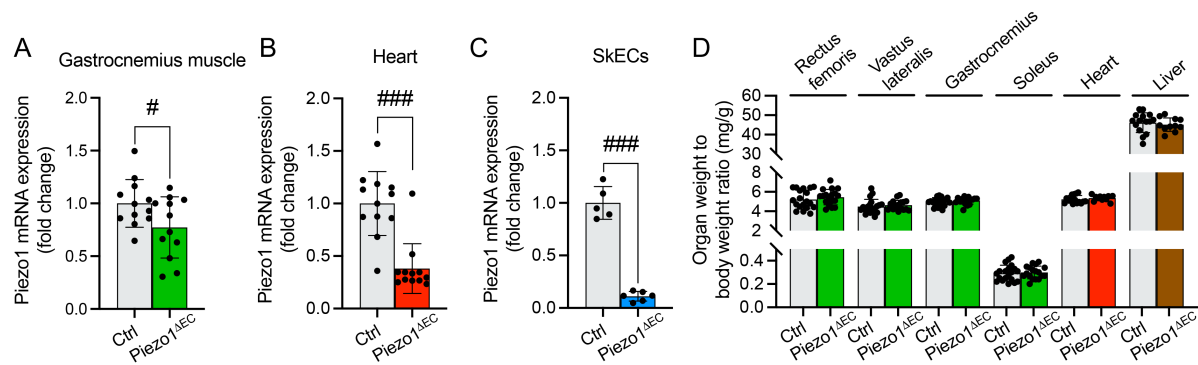
Fiona Bartoli¹, Marjolaine Debant^{1†}, Eulashini Chuntharpursat-Bon^{1†}, Elizabeth L Evans¹, Katie E Musialowski¹, Gregory Parsonage¹, Lara C Morley¹, T Simon Futers¹, Piruthivi Sukumar¹, T Scott Bowen², Mark T Kearney¹, Laetitia Lichtenstein¹, Lee D Roberts¹, David J Beech^{1*}

¹School of Medicine and ²School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK.

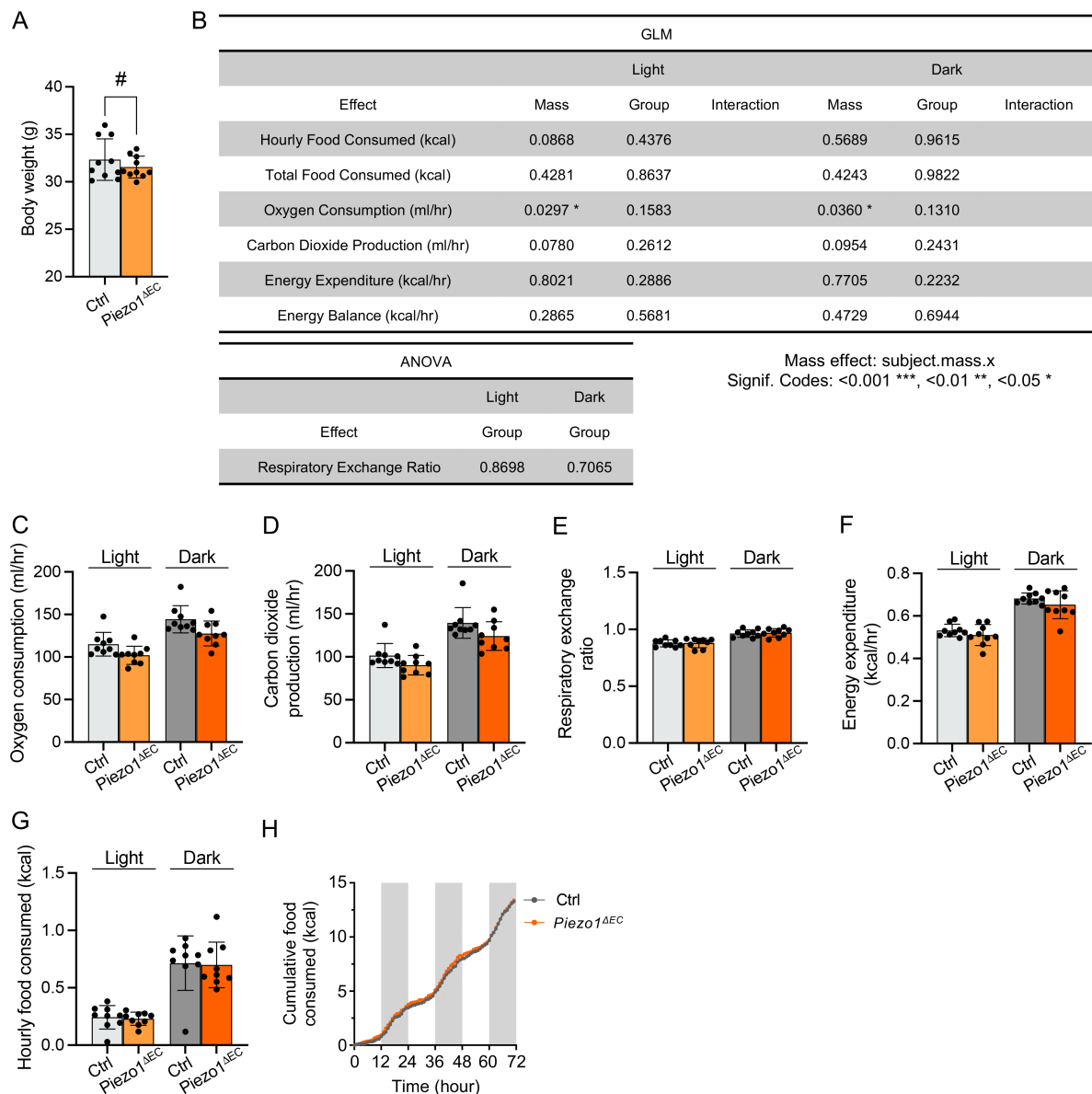
[†]Contributed equally.

*Author for correspondence: Professor David J Beech, Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine, School of Medicine, LIGHT Building, Clarendon Way, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England, UK. Telephone +44 113 343 4323. Email d.j.beech@leeds.ac.uk.

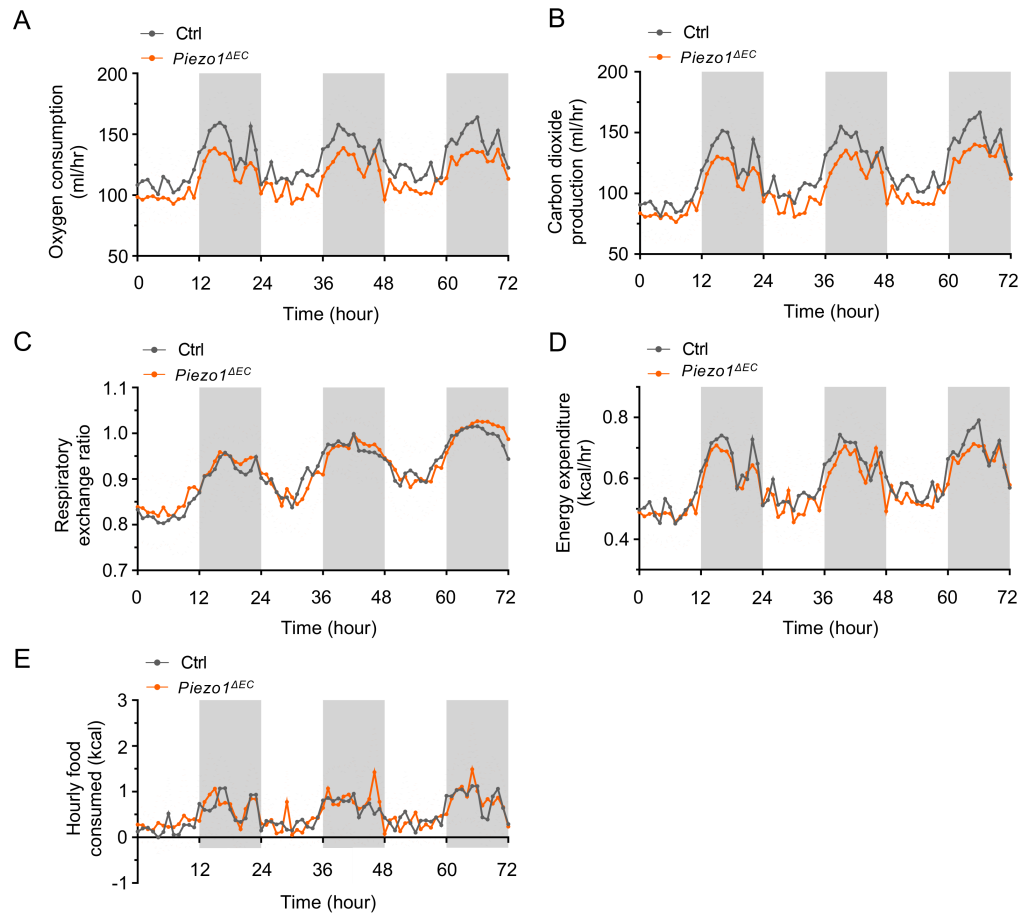
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (SI) – FIGURES



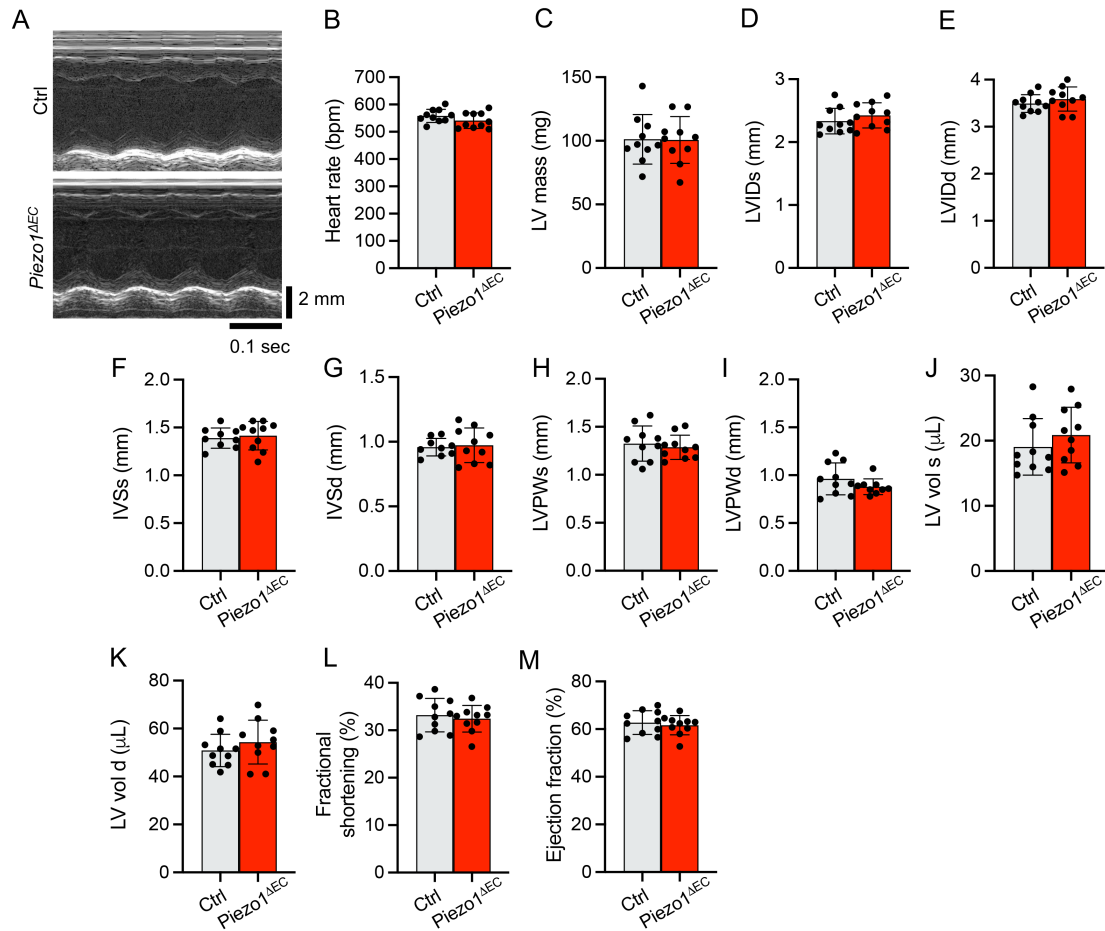
SI Figure 1: Anatomical parameters are normal in *Piezo1*^{ΔEC} mice despite efficient depletion of endothelial Piezo1. **A-C**, Quantitative PCR mRNA expression data for *Piezo1* gene in whole gastrocnemius muscle (**A**), heart (**B**) and isolated endothelial cells from skeletal muscle (SkECs) (**C**) from Ctrl (grey) and *Piezo1*^{ΔEC} mice (colour). RNA abundance was normalized to housekeeping gene expression and presented as the fold-change relative to that in Ctrl mice. **D**, Organ weight to body weight ratio for: rectus femoris; vastus lateralis; gastrocnemius; soleus muscles; heart and liver from Ctrl (grey) and *Piezo1*^{ΔEC} mice (colour). Data are for (**A-B**) $N = 12$; (**C**) $N = 5 - 6$ and (**D**) $N = 11 - 20$ mice per group (mean $\pm$ S.D.). Superimposed dots are the individual underlying data values for each individual mouse. # $P < 0.05$, ### $P < 0.001$ vs. Ctrl mice. Statistical significance was evaluated using Student's *t*-test.



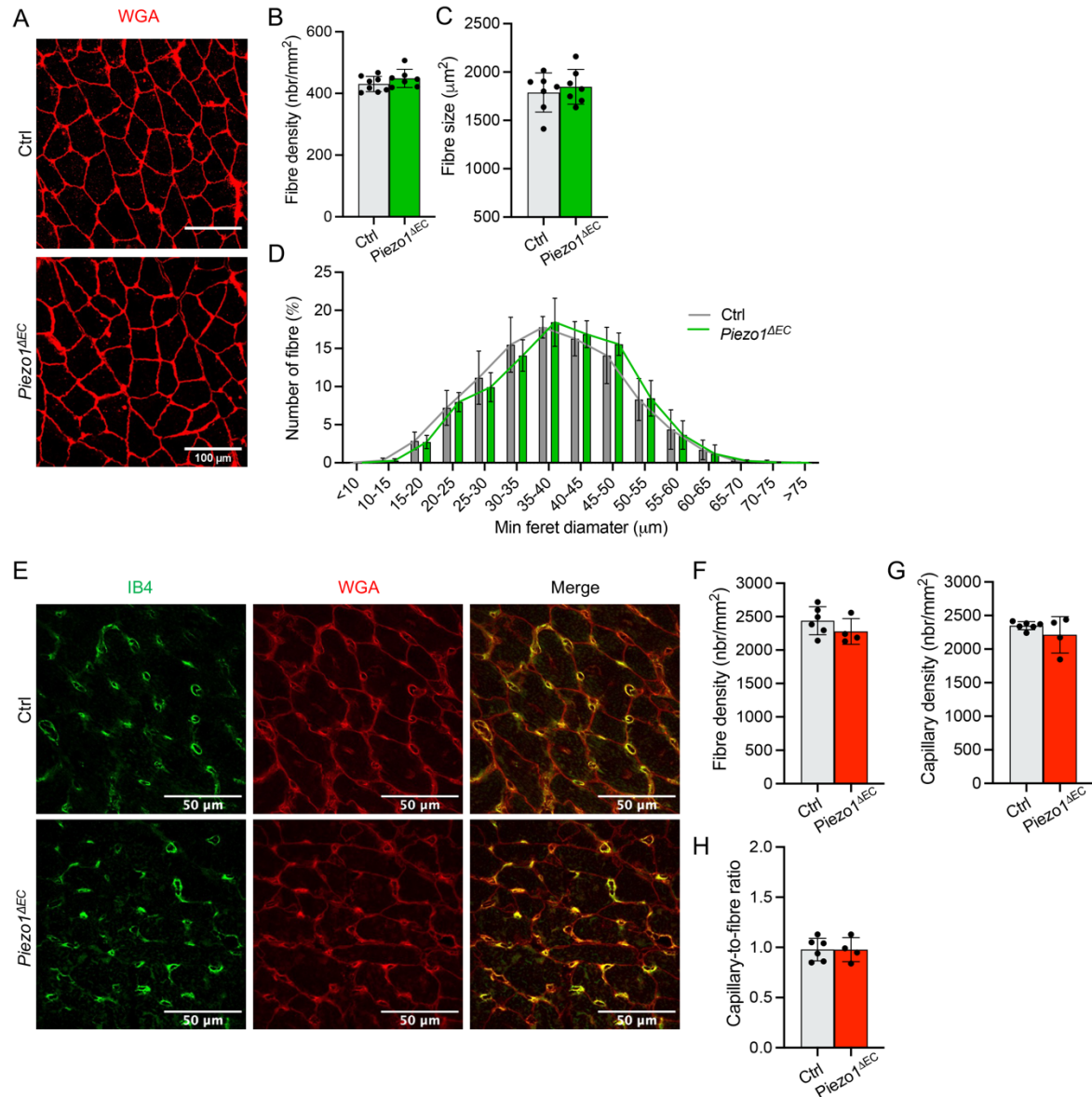
SI Figure 2: Metabolism and respiration are normal in *Piezo1* Δ EC mice. Throughout the figure, data in grey are for Ctrl mice and data in orange are for *Piezo1* Δ EC mice. Lighter colour is for data sampled during the light cycle and darker colour for data during the dark cycle. Data were measured for 3 light and dark cycles. **A**, Body weight data for mice used for CLAMS experiments. **B**, ANCOVA analysis of metabolism parameters using CalR software. **C**, Pooled, averaged, oxygen consumption data. **D**, Carbon dioxide production data. **E**, Respiratory exchange ratio data. **F**, Energy expenditure data. **G**, Food consumption data. **H**, Cumulative food consumption during 72 hr recording. Grey shaded areas indicate the dark cycles. Data are for N = 9 - 10 mice per group (mean $\pm$ S.D.). Superimposed dots are the individual underlying data values for each individual mouse. # P <0.05 vs. Ctrl mice. Statistical significance was evaluated using analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) with CalR software.



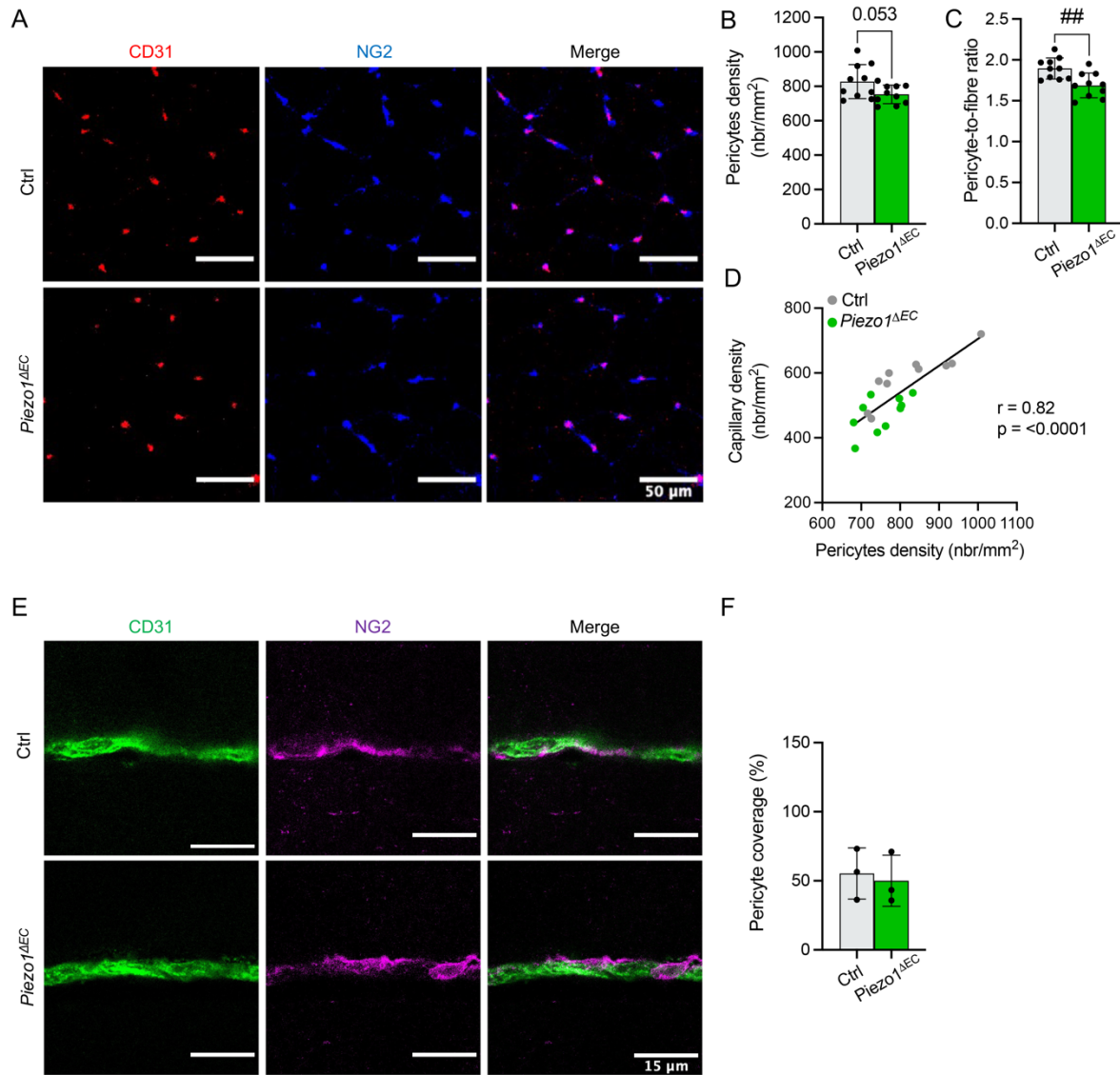
SI Figure 3: Circadian patterns of metabolic parameters are normal in *Piezo1*^{ΔEC} mice. Throughout the figure, data in grey are for Ctrl mice and data in orange are for *Piezo1*^{ΔEC} mice. Grey shaded areas indicate the dark cycles. **A**, Oxygen consumption data. **B**, Carbon dioxide production data. **C**, Respiratory exchange ratio data. **D**, Energy expenditure data. **E**, Food consumption data. Data are for N = 9 - 10 mice per group (mean ± S.D.).



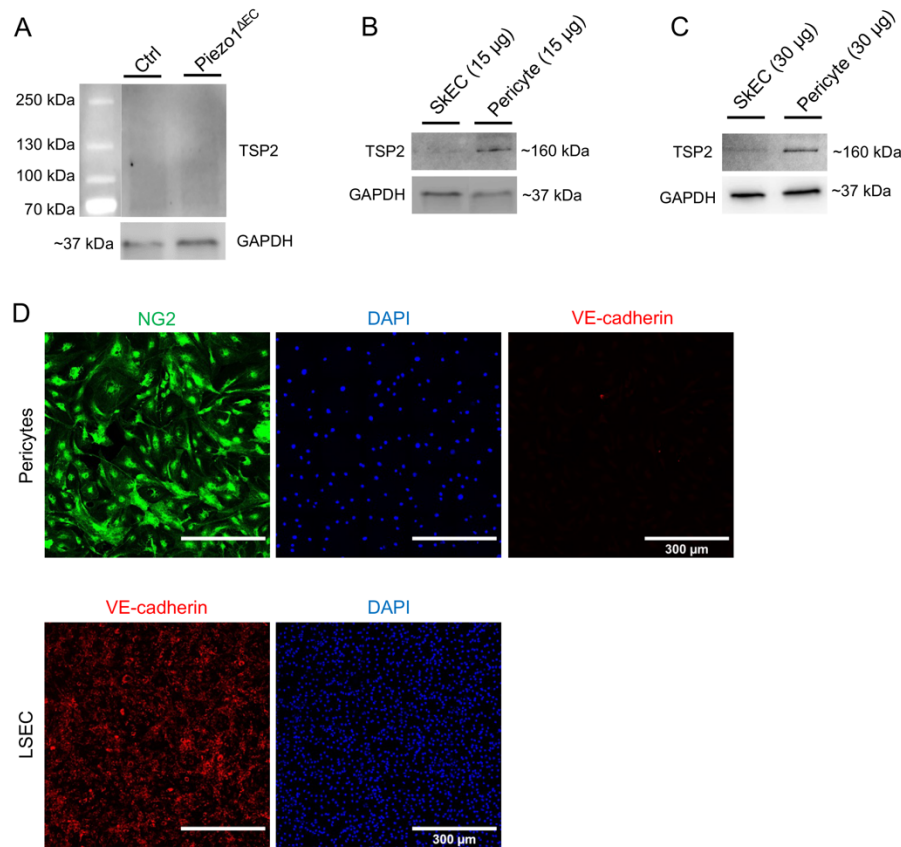
SI Figure 4: Normal cardiac structure and function in *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. Data are for Ctrl mice (grey) and matched *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice (red). **A**, Representative echocardiography images of LV in short axis and in M-mode from Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. Parameters obtained from analysis of echocardiograms from Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. **(B-M)** Based on data of the type shown in **(A)**: **B**, Heart rate; **C**, Corrected left ventricular (LV) mass; **D**, Left ventricular internal diameter in systole (LVIDs); **E**, LVID in diastole (LVIDd); **F**, Interventricular septum thickness at end-systole (IVSs); **G**, IVS in end-diastole (IVSd); **H**, Left ventricular posterior wall thickness in systole (LVPWs); **I**, LVPW in diastole (LVPWd); **J**, Left ventricular volume in systole (LV vol s); **K**, LV vol in diastole (LV vol d); **L**, Cardiac fractional shortening; **M**, Cardiac ejection fraction. Data are for N = 10 mice per group (mean ± S.D.). Superimposed dots are the individual underlying data values for each individual mouse.



SI Figure 5: Normal skeletal fibre properties and heart capillary density in *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. **A**, Immunohistochemistry for staining by wheat germ agglutinin (WGA, red) in gastrocnemius muscle sections of Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. Scale bars, 100 μm. **B**, Fibre density. **C**, Fibre area. **D**, Fibre size distribution of gastrocnemius muscle from Ctrl (grey) and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice (green), determined using the geometrical parameter minimum Feret's diameter. **E**, Immunohistochemistry for staining by isolectin B4 (IB4, green) and wheat germ agglutinin (WGA, red) in heart sections of Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. Merged images are shown on the right. Scale bars, 50 μm. **F**, Fibre density. **G**, Capillary density. **H**, Capillary-to-fibre ratio measured from Ctrl (grey) and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice (red) images of the type shown in (E). Data are for (A-D) N = 7 – 8 and (E-H) N = 4 – 6 mice per group (mean ± S.D.). Superimposed dots are the individual underlying data values for each individual mouse.



SI Figure 6: Decreased pericyte density but normal pericyte coverage of blood vessels in *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. **A**, Immunohistochemistry for staining by CD31 (endothelial cells, red) and NG2 (pericytes, blue) in gastrocnemius muscle cross-sections of Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. Merged images are shown on the right. Scale bars, 50 μ m. **B**, Pericytes density. **C**, Pericyte-to-fibre ratio measured from Ctrl (grey) and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice (green) images of the type shown in (A). **D**, Pearson correlation of capillary and pericyte densities ($r = 0.82$, $p < 0.0001$). The black line is the correlation fit. **E**, Immunohistochemistry for staining by CD31 (endothelial cells, green) and NG2 (pericytes, magenta) in gastrocnemius muscle longitudinal sections of Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. Merged images are shown on the right. Scale bars, 15 μ m. **F**, Quantification of pericyte coverage calculated as the percentage of NG2 positive cells in CD31 areas. Data are for (A-D) $N = 10$ and (E-F) $N = 3$ mice per group (mean $\pm$ S.D.). Superimposed dots are the underlying data values for each individual mouse. Grey: muscles from Ctrl mice. Green: muscles from *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. ### $P < 0.01$ vs. Ctrl mice. Statistical significance was evaluated using Student's *t*-test except in **D** where Pearson's correlation was used.



SI Figure 7: TSP2 expression in pericytes and pericyte culture purity. **A**, Representative western-blot for TSP2 protein in endothelial cells isolated from muscle (SkECs) of Ctrl and *Piezo1^{ΔEC}* mice. No specific band was detected. Data are for N = 3 mice per group. **(B-C)** Validation of the anti-TSP2 antibody used in **(A)** by western-blot in isolated pericytes from skeletal muscle compared to SkECs **(B, 15 μg and C, 30 μg protein loaded)**. A specific band was detected in pericytes for TSP2 at approximately 160 kDa. Data are for N = 2 mice. **D**, Top: Immunohistochemistry for NG2 (green), DAPI (blue) and VE-cadherin (red), to visualize respectively pericytes, nuclei and endothelial cells in pericytes culture. Bottom: Immunohistochemistry for VE-cadherin (red) and DAPI (blue) in isolated endothelial cells from liver (LSECs) cultures, used as positive control for VE-cadherin antibody. Scale bars, 300 μm. Data are for N = 3 mice per condition.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (SI) - TABLES

SI Table 1: Gene expression that was not different in *Piezo1^{AEC}* mice. The genes indicated were selected as markers of fibrosis, ER stress, fibre growth, fibre switch, hypoxia, inflammation, glucose and lipid metabolism, mitochondria biogenesis and immune cells. Gene expression was determined by RT-qPCR in whole gastrocnemius muscle from Ctrl and *Piezo1^{AEC}* mice. The abundance of mRNA was normalized to housekeeping genes and expressed as fold-change relative to controls. All displayed values are mean $\pm$ S.D. Statistical significance was evaluated using Student's *t*-test.

Gastrocnemius muscle						
Genes (common name)	Gene (official name)	Control mice	N	<i>Piezo1^{AEC}</i> mice	N	P value
<i>Fibrosis</i>						
<i>Coll1a1</i>	<i>Coll1a1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.24	8	0.94 $\pm$ 0.29	9	0.65
<i>Col3a1</i>	<i>Col3a1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.72	8	1.05 $\pm$ 0.46	9	0.87
<i>Col4a1</i>	<i>Col4a1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.30	8	0.96 $\pm$ 0.26	9	0.79
<i>Col4a2</i>	<i>Col4a2</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.34	8	0.85 $\pm$ 0.21	9	0.29
<i>ER stress</i>						
<i>Ire1</i>	<i>Ern1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.30	8	0.94 $\pm$ 0.33	9	0.70
<i>Grp78</i>	<i>Hspa5</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.17	8	0.91 $\pm$ 0.19	9	0.31
<i>Atf6</i>	<i>Atf6</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.17	8	0.84 $\pm$ 0.21	9	0.11
<i>Fibre growth</i>						
<i>Icam1</i>	<i>Icam1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.30	8	0.92 $\pm$ 0.28	9	0.58
<i>Murf1</i>	<i>Trim63</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.36	8	0.97 $\pm$ 0.24	9	0.87
<i>Atrogin1</i>	<i>Fbxo32</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.43	8	0.97 $\pm$ 0.42	9	0.89
<i>Fibre switch</i>						
<i>Myh1</i>	<i>Myh1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.46	8	1.02 $\pm$ 0.20	9	0.92
<i>Myh2</i>	<i>Myh2</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.16	8	0.91 $\pm$ 0.18	9	0.27
<i>Myh4</i>	<i>Myh4</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.38	8	1.19 $\pm$ 0.35	9	0.30
<i>Myh7</i>	<i>Myh7</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.21	8	0.81 $\pm$ 0.25	9	0.11
<i>Pgc1a</i>	<i>Ppargc1a</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.45	8	0.99 $\pm$ 0.44	9	0.95
<i>Hypoxia / Inflammation</i>						
<i>Hif1a</i>	<i>Hif1a</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.22	8	0.97 $\pm$ 0.26	9	0.81
<i>Hif2a</i>	<i>Epas1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.27	8	1.03 $\pm$ 0.50	9	0.88
<i>Glucose and lipid metabolism</i>						
<i>Glut4</i>	<i>Slc2a4</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.42	8	0.83 $\pm$ 0.36	9	0.37
<i>Pdk4</i>	<i>Pdk4</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.31	8	1.24 $\pm$ 0.84	9	0.46
<i>Ppara</i>	<i>Ppara</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.38	8	1.01 $\pm$ 0.45	9	0.95
<i>Ppary</i>	<i>Ppary</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.41	8	1.19 $\pm$ 0.62	9	0.47
<i>Cpt1b</i>	<i>Cpt1b</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.21	8	0.89 $\pm$ 0.24	9	0.32
<i>Cpt2</i>	<i>Cpt2</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.38	8	0.78 $\pm$ 0.29	9	0.21
<i>Cd36</i>	<i>Cd36</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.25	8	1.01 $\pm$ 0.51	9	0.96
<i>Hmgcr</i>	<i>Hmgcr</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.24	8	0.94 $\pm$ 0.23	9	0.61
<i>Fatp1</i>	<i>Slc27a1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.35	8	0.86 $\pm$ 0.37	9	0.44
<i>Mitochondrial biogenesis</i>						
<i>Nrf1</i>	<i>Nfe2l1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.21	8	1.05 $\pm$ 0.33	9	0.70
<i>Ucp3</i>	<i>Ucp3</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.33	8	1.15 $\pm$ 0.58	9	0.53
<i>Tfam</i>	<i>Tfam</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.16	8	0.94 $\pm$ 0.15	9	0.47
<i>Immune cells</i>						
<i>Cd11b</i>	<i>Itgam</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.05	8	1.23 $\pm$ 0.15	9	0.19
<i>Cd206</i>	<i>Mrc1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.08	8	1.16 $\pm$ 0.17	9	0.42
<i>Cd45</i>	<i>Ptpre</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.05	8	1.24 $\pm$ 0.19	9	0.28
<i>F4/80</i>	<i>Adgre1</i>	1 $\pm$ 0.10	8	1.19 $\pm$ 0.14	9	0.31

SI Table 2: qPCR primers.

Species	Gene (common name)	Gene (official name)	Forward (5'-3')	Reverse (5'-3')
Mus musculus	<i>Angpt1</i>	<i>Angpt1</i>	CATTCTTCGCTGCCATTCTG	GCACATTGCCCATGTTGAATC
	<i>Angpt2</i>	<i>Angpt2</i>	CCAACTCCAAGAGCTCGGTT	CGGTGTTGGATGACTGTCCA
	<i>Atf6</i>	<i>Atf6</i>	CGGTCCACAGACTCGTGTTTC	GCTGTCGCCATATAAGGAAAGG
	<i>Atrogin1</i>	<i>Fbxo32</i>	CGTCTCACTTTCCCCTCAAG	GACTCCCAGCCATCCAATTAG
	<i>Bak</i>	<i>Bak1</i>	CCTTCGGGGTCTTCGTCTTT	ACCGTCACTTGTACCTGAAT
	<i>Bax</i>	<i>Bax</i>	CAAACCTGGTGCTCAAGGCC	TCTTGGATCCAGACAAGCAGC
	<i>Bcl2</i>	<i>Bcl2</i>	TCTCAGTGAAGCCGGAGTGT	ACAACTTGCAATGAATCGGGAG
	<i>BclXL</i>	<i>Bcl2l1</i>	AACATCCCAGCTTCACATAACCCC	GCGACCCAGTTTACTCCATCC
	<i>Cd11b</i>	<i>Itgam</i>	CAGCCCTAGCCTTGTGTCAT	GCTGCAACAACCACACTGG
	<i>Cd206</i>	<i>Mrc1</i>	TTCAGCTATTGGACGCGAGG	GAATCTGACACCCAGCGGAA
	<i>Cd36</i>	<i>Cd36</i>	GAGCAACTGGTGGATGGTTT	GCAGAATCAAGGGAGAGCAC
	<i>Cd45</i>	<i>Ptpre</i>	TGCAAGTGGAGGCACAGTA	GGTCACTGGGTGGATCTCTCT
	<i>Cd47</i>	<i>Cd47</i>	GGTGGGAAACTACACTTGCG	AGAAAACCACGAAACCGTGC
	<i>Coll1a1</i>	<i>Coll1a1</i>	GCTCCTCTTAGGGGCCACT	CCACGTCTCACCATTGGGG
	<i>Col3a1</i>	<i>Col3a1</i>	CTGTAACATGGAACTGGGGAAA	CCATAGCTGAAGTGAAGAACACC
	<i>Col4a1</i>	<i>Col4a1</i>	CTGGCACAAAAGGGACGAG	ACGTGGCCGAGAAATTCACC
	<i>Col4a2</i>	<i>Col4a2</i>	CCCGGATCTGTACAAGGGTG	CGCCTTTGAGATTACGCCG
	<i>Cpt1b</i>	<i>Cpt1b</i>	GCTTAGTCTGGGAGGCTCTGA	ACACCCCTAAGGATGCCATT
	<i>Cpt2</i>	<i>Cpt2</i>	GGATAAACAGATAAGCACACCA	GAAGGAACAAGCGGATGAG
	<i>Dll4</i>	<i>Dll4</i>	GGAACCTTCTCACTCAACATCC	CTCGTCTGTTCCCAAATCT
	<i>F4/80</i>	<i>Adgre1</i>	TGGCTGCCTCCCTGACTTTC	CAAGTGTAAGAAAGGAGCATAACC
	<i>Fatp1</i>	<i>Slc27a1</i>	CTGTAGCCAACCTGTTCCG	CTCCCCGCCATAAATGAGGG
	<i>Fgf2</i>	<i>Fgf2</i>	GGCTGCTGGCTTCTAAGTGT	TCTGTCCAGGTCCCGTTTGT
	<i>Gapdh</i>	<i>Gapdh</i>	TGAAGCAGGCATCTGAGGG	CGAAGGTGGAAGAGTGGGA
	<i>Grp78</i>	<i>Hspa5</i>	ACTTGGGGACCACCTATTCTT	ATCGCCAATCAGACGCTCC
	<i>Glut4</i>	<i>Slc2a4</i>	GGAAGGAAAAGGGCTATGCTG	TGAGGAACCGTCCAAGAATGA
	<i>Hif1a</i>	<i>Hif1a</i>	ACCTTCATCGGAACTCCAAAG	CTGTTAGGCTGGGAAAAGTTAGG
	<i>Hif2a</i>	<i>Epas1</i>	TAAAGCGGCAGCTGGAGTAT	ACTGGGAGGCATAGCACTGT
	<i>Hmgcr</i>	<i>Hmgcr</i>	AGCTTGCCCGAATTGTATGTG	TCTGTGTGAACCATGTGACTTC
	<i>Icam1</i>	<i>Icam1</i>	TGTGCTTTGAGAAGTGTGCA	TGGCGGCTCAGTATCTCCTC
	<i>Ire1</i>	<i>Ern1</i>	ACACTGCCTGAGACCTTGTGT	GGAGCCCGTCCTTGTCTA
	<i>Lrp1</i>	<i>Lrp1</i>	ATGAGCTGGACGTGTGACAAGG	GCCTCTGAGCAGAACTTGTTC
	<i>Murfl</i>	<i>Trim63</i>	AGTGTCCATGTCTGGAGGTCGTTT	ACTGGAGCACTCTGCTTGTAGAT
	<i>Myh1</i>	<i>Myh1</i>	AATCAAAGGTCAAGGCCTACAA	GAATTTGGCCAGGTTGACAT
	<i>Myh2</i>	<i>Myh2</i>	AAGCGAAGAGTAAGGCTGTC	CTTGCAAAGGAACTTGGGCTC
	<i>Myh4</i>	<i>Myh4</i>	GAAGAGCCGAGAGGTTACAC	CAGGACAGTGACAAAGAACGTC
	<i>Myh7</i>	<i>Myh7</i>	CTACAGGCCTGGGCTTACCT	TCTCCTTCTCAGACTTCCGC
	<i>Ng2</i>	<i>Cspg4</i>	CAGGCCTGCAAATCTGGGAG	GTCTTCTGGGCCCAATCAT
	<i>Nos3</i>	<i>Nos3</i>	TCAGCCATCACAGTGTTCCT	ATAGCCCGCATAGCGTATCAG
	<i>Notch1</i>	<i>Notch1</i>	ATCAAGCGCTCTACAGTGGG	AGACAATGGAGCCACGGATG
	<i>Nrf1</i>	<i>Nfe2l1</i>	GCACCTTTGGAGAAATGTGGT	CTGAGCCTGGGTCAATTTGT
	<i>Pdgfrβ</i>	<i>Pdgfrβ</i>	GCAGAAGAAGCCACGCTATG	CAGGTGGAGTCGTAAGGCAA
	<i>Pdk4</i>	<i>Pdk4</i>	GAGGATTACTGACCGCTCTTTAG	TTCCGGGAATTGTCCATCAC
	<i>Pgc1a</i>	<i>Ppargc1a</i>	AGCCGTGACCACTGACAACGAG	GCTGCATGGTTCTGAGTGCTAAG
	<i>Ppara</i>	<i>Ppara</i>	TATTCGGCTGAAGCTGGTGTAC	CTGGCATTGTTCCGGTTCT
	<i>Pparγ</i>	<i>Pparγ</i>	CACAATGCCATCAGGTTTGG	GCTGGTCGATATCACTGGAGATC
	<i>Rps20</i>	<i>Rps20</i>	GGACTTGATCAGAGGCGCCAAGGAAA	CCCAGGCTTGGAACCTTACCACAA
	<i>Tfam</i>	<i>Tfam</i>	CAAGTCAGCTGATGGGTATGG	TTCCCTGAGCCGAATCATCC
	<i>Tgfb1</i>	<i>Tgfb1</i>	CCCTATATTGGAGCCTGGA	CTTGCGACCCACGTAGTAGA
	<i>Tie1</i>	<i>Tie1</i>	GTAGGTTCCGTCTCTGCCAC	GGTCTCTTACCCGATCCTG
	<i>Tie2</i>	<i>Tek</i>	AAGCAACCCAGCCTTTTCTC	TGAGCACTTCTCTTTGGAC
	<i>Tsp1</i>	<i>Thbs1</i>	TAGCTGGAATGTGGTGCGT	GGCACTCTTTGCACTATCG
	<i>Tsp2</i>	<i>Thbs2</i>	CAGATTGGCTACGCAGGTGA	GTTTGGGGCAGTTGTCTTTG
	<i>Ucp3</i>	<i>Ucp3</i>	CCTACAGAACCATCGCCAGG	ACCGGGGAGGCCACCACTGT
	<i>Vegfr1</i>	<i>Flt1</i>	TGGGACAGTAGGAGAGGCTT	GTATTGGTCTGCCGATGGGT
	<i>Vegfr2</i>	<i>Kdr</i>	GCGAGACCATTGAAGTGA	GAAGGAGCCAGAAGAACAT
	<i>Wnt5a</i>	<i>Wnt5a</i>	TGAATGAACTGGGGGCATCTT	GGCGGTAATTAGGGCTTTCCA

SI Table 3: Antibodies for immunoblotting.

Category	Protein / Target	Host	Dilution	Catalog reference	Source
<i>Primary antibody</i>	<i>TSP2</i>	<i>Rabbit</i>	1:1000	PA1417	Boster Bio
<i>Primary antibody</i>	<i>p-eNOS (Ser1179)</i>	<i>Mouse</i>	1:1000	612392	BD Biosciences
<i>Primary antibody</i>	<i>t-eNOS</i>	<i>Mouse</i>	1:1000	610296	BD Biosciences
<i>Primary antibody</i>	<i>GAPDH HRP</i>	<i>Mouse</i>	1:10000	ab105428	Abcam
<i>Secondary antibody</i>	<i>Rabbit</i>	<i>Donkey</i>	1:5000	711-036-152	Jackson ImmunoResearch
<i>Secondary antibody</i>	<i>Mouse</i>	<i>Donkey</i>	1:5000	715-035-150	Jackson ImmunoResearch