

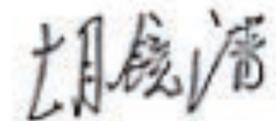
Biostatistics statement

The statistical analyses were performed by using SPSS 17.0 software (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA) and each value was expressed as means \pm SEM. All the original data in the study was distributed normally and conformed to homogeneity of variance. The differences among the three groups were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by least-significant difference (LSD) test to compare the differences between two groups. The differences among the two groups were analyzed using T test. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by biomedical statistician Jing-qing Hu from China Academy of Chinese medical Science, MD, e-mail address: gcp306@126.com.

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