

Animal care and use statement

The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. The animals were kept under a constant temperature of $24\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ and relative humidity of $55\pm 5\%$ with a 12-h light:12-h dark cycle (lights on at 7:00 a.m.). The animals had access to regular chow diet and water ad libitum. For the implementation of anesthesia, an intraperitoneal injection of 50 mg/kg of sodium pentobarbital was used. All animals were euthanized by barbiturate overdose (intravenous injection, 150 mg/kg pentobarbital sodium) for tissue collection.

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