

Animal care and use statement: The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. The animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions (23°C, 12 h daylight cycle, lights off at 18.00 hours). The mice were acclimatized for 7 days after arrival with free access to water and a standard chow diet. Intra-gastric gavage needles appropriate for the animal size (15-17 g body weight: 22 gauge, 1 inch length, 1.25 mm ball diameter). All animals were euthanized by pentobarbital sodium (150mg/kg) for tissue collection.