

Animal care and use statement: Every effort was made to minimize any suffering of the animals used in this study. The animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions (23°C, 12h/12h light/dark, 50% humidity, *ad libitum* access to food and water) for two weeks prior to experimentation. Intragastric gavage administration was carried out with conscious animals, using straight 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 barbiturate overdose (intravenous injection, 150 mg/kg pentobarbital sodium) for tissue collection.

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Signature:  Date: 2015-02-16