

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, 12h/12h light/dark, 50% humidity, ad libitum access to food and water) for two weeks prior to experimentation. All rats in the study were used strictly in accordance with the National Institutions of Health Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Seventy-five eight-week-old female Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 180-220g were obtained from the Experiment Animal Center, China Medical University.

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