

Animal care and use committee statement

The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. Animals were maintained in a temperature-controlled environment with a 12 hour light/dark cycle. They were allowed free access to food and water for one week. Prior to the experiments, the animals were fasted for 24 h but allowed free access to water. All procedures performed were according to the guidelines of the International Association for the Study of Pain and were approved by the Experimental Animal Ethical Association in Qi Lu Normal University.

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