

Mice

A α -chain fibrinogen-deficient (Fib^{-/-}) male and fibrinogen-heterozygotic (Fib^{+/-}) female breeder mice were a gift from Dr. Jay L Degen (Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH). Breeding was performed at Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The animals were housed in conventional cages with free access to tap drinking water and standard mouse chow (TD8640, Harlan Teklad, Madison, WI). A pathogen-free environment with controlled humidity, temperature, and 12-12 h light-dark cycle was maintained. All experimental protocols were approved by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.