

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. Intra-gastric gavage administration was carried out with conscious animals, using straight gavage needles appropriate for the animal size (200-250 g body weight: 12 gauge, 1 inch length, 1.25 mm ball diameter). All animals were euthanized by barbiturate overdose (intravenous injection, 150mg/kg pentobarbital sodium) for tissue collection.

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2015.11.1