

Animal care and use Committee Statement

We used 30 male Wistar rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) from the Central Animal Facility of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo in this study. The animals were housed in polypropylene cages that could hold up to three animals. The temperature was controlled at 21 ± 1 °C, and the humidity was approximately 60%. The animals were maintained on alternating cycles of 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark, with a balanced diet and water provided *ad libitum*. All the procedures were approved by the Ethics Committee on Animal Experiments of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science of the University of São Paulo/Protocol number 2726/2012 . The animals were divided into two groups: 1) a young group, 21 days old (n = 15), and 2) an older group, 24 months old (n = 15). The animals were euthanized with an overdose of xylazine (40 mg/kg) and ketamine (120 mg/kg).



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