

The ARRIVE Essential 10

These items are the basic minimum to include in a manuscript and support assessment of the reliability of the findings.

Item		Recommendation	Section/line number, or reason for not reporting
Study design	1	Provide study groups and controls; identify the experimental unit.	Sections 2.2.1-2.2.2. Groups and controls are reported. Experimental unit: individual mouse (not stated explicitly in the manuscript).
Sample size	2	Report exact group sizes/total animals and explain how sample size was decided.	Sections 2.2.1-2.2.2; Supplementary Table 1. Exact numbers are reported. No formal a priori calculation was performed; sample sizes were based on previous experience with similar MCAO/R mouse experiments.
Inclusion and exclusion criteria	3	Report inclusion/exclusion criteria, exclusions/reasons and exact n for each analysis.	Sections 2.2.1-2.2.2 and 2.3; Supplementary Table 1; figure legends. Zea Longa scores 1-3 were included. Exclusions/mortality and exact n values are reported in Supplementary Table 1 and figure legends.
Randomisation	4	State whether/how randomisation was used and how potential confounders were controlled.	Sections 2.2.1-2.2.2. Random allocation is reported. Method not stated explicitly. No additional control of treatment order, measurement order or cage location.
Blinding	5	Describe who knew group allocation during allocation, conduct, assessment and analysis.	Sections 2.7-2.8. TTC/FJB quantification was blinded. EA/drug administration, western blotting and RT-qPCR were unblinded; immunofluorescence assessment and corresponding quantification were blinded.
Outcome measures	6	Define all outcomes and identify the primary outcome used for sample-size determination, if applicable.	Sections 2.5-2.13; Results 3.1-3.6. Multiple complementary outcomes were assessed. No single primary outcome was prespecified or used to determine sample size.
Statistical methods	7	Report statistical methods/software and how statistical assumptions were assessed.	Section 2.14. SPSS 23.0; t tests; one-way ANOVA with Tukey post hoc. Normality and homogeneity of variance were assessed; all datasets subjected to these parametric tests met the assumptions.
Experimental animals	8	Report relevant animal characteristics, provenance, health and genetic information.	Section 2.1. Species/strain, sex, age, weight, source, health status, genetic background, housing/acclimatization and genotyping are reported.
Experimental procedures	9	Describe procedures in enough detail for replication, including what, how, when, where and why.	Sections 2.3-2.13. MCAO/R, EA, drug administration, behavioral testing, imaging, staining, TEM, RT-qPCR, co-IP, western blotting, immunofluorescence and related procedures are described.
Results	10	Report descriptive statistics/variability and, if applicable, effect sizes with confidence intervals.	Results 3.1-3.6; Figs. 1-7. Quantitative data are mean $\pm$ SD with p-values; exact n values are in figure legends. Effect sizes with confidence intervals were not reported separately.