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The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0: author checklist

The ARRIVE Essential 10

These items are the basic minimum to include in a manuscript. Without this information, readers and reviewers cannot assess the reliability of the findings.

Item		Recommendation	Section/line number, or reason for not reporting
Study design	1	For each experiment, provide brief details of study design including: a. The groups being compared, including control groups. If no control group has been used, the rationale should be stated. b. The experimental unit (e.g. a single animal, litter, or cage of animals).	2.3, para 1 - model vs olive-oil vehicle, n = 5/group, two species 2.3, para 1 - a single animal
Sample size	2	a. Specify the exact number of experimental units allocated to each group, and the total number in each experiment. Also indicate the total number of animals used. b. Explain how the sample size was decided. Provide details of any *a priori* sample size calculation, if done.	2.3, para 1 - mice 5 + 5; rats 5 + 5; 20 animals in total 2.3, para 1 - as in previous CCl4 studies; no a priori power calculation
Inclusion and exclusion criteria	3	a. Describe any criteria used for including and excluding animals (or experimental units) during the experiment, and data points during the analysis. Specify if these criteria were established *a priori.* If no criteria were set, state this explicitly. b. For each experimental group, report any animals, experimental units or data points not included in the analysis and explain why. If there were no exclusions, state so. c. For each analysis, report the exact value of *n* in each experimental group.	2.3, para 1 - males aged 6-8 weeks; no exclusion criteria set a priori 2.3, para 1 - no animals or data points excluded 2.3, para 1; Fig. 1F - n = 5 per group, each species
Randomisation	4	a. State whether randomisation was used to allocate experimental units to control and treatment groups. If done, provide the method used to generate the randomisation sequence. b. Describe the strategy used to minimise potential confounders such as the order of treatments and measurements, or animal/cage location. If confounders were not controlled, state this explicitly.	2.3, para 1 - simple random allocation before the first injection Not controlled - housing and treatment were in parallel; cage position not randomised
Blinding	5	Describe who was aware of the group allocation at the different stages of the experiment (during the allocation, the conduct of the experiment, the outcome assessment, and the data analysis).	2.3 - not blinded: Fig. 1F images are representative, not scored. Blinded scoring applied to the human TMA only (2.2)
Outcome measures	6	a. Clearly define all outcome measures assessed (e.g. cell death, molecular markers, or behavioural changes). b. For hypothesis-testing studies, specify the primary outcome measure, i.e. the outcome measure that was used to determine the sample size.	2.3; 3.1; Fig. 1F - SEMA3C and alpha-SMA co-localisation by immunofluorescence No sample-size-driving primary outcome (not a hypothesis-testing animal study)
Statistical methods	7	a. Provide details of the statistical methods used for each analysis, including software used. b. Describe any methods used to assess whether the data met the assumptions of the statistical approach, and what was done if the assumptions were not met.	2.12 - no test applied to the animal images; R 4.2.0 and Prism 9.5.0 Not applicable (no test performed); Shapiro-Wilk for all other analyses (2.12)
Experimental animals	8	a. Provide species-appropriate details of the animals used, including species, strain and substrain, sex, age or developmental stage, and, if relevant, weight. b. Provide further relevant information on the provenance of animals, health/immune status, genetic modification status, genotype, and any previous procedures.	2.3, para 1 - male C57BL/6 mice and male SD rats, 6-8 weeks Not stated in the manuscript; animals were not genetically modified
Experimental procedures	9	For each experimental group, including controls, describe the procedures in enough detail to allow others to replicate them, including: a. What was done, how it was done and what was used. b. When and how often. c. Where (including detail of any acclimatisation periods). d. Why (provide rationale for procedures).	2.3, para 1-2 - i.p. CCl4 in olive oil, 2 mL/kg; vehicle in controls 2.3, para 1 - twice weekly; 6 weeks (mice), 8 weeks (rats) 2.3, para 1-2 - i.p. injection; animal facility of Jiangsu University 2.3 - CCl4-induced chronic fibrotic injury, as reported previously
Results	10	For each experiment conducted, including independent replications, report: a. Summary/descriptive statistics for each experimental group, with a measure of variability where applicable (e.g. mean and SD, or median and range). b. If applicable, the effect size with a confidence interval.	3.1; Fig. 1F - upregulated and co-localised with alpha-SMA in both species; n = 5/group Not applicable - representative images only, no quantitative measurement