

Toxicology Research

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1 ABSTRACT

2 **Background&Aim** Diallyl trisulfide (DATS) has been verified to ameliorate
3 hepatotoxicity induced by many drugs, but the protective actions in isoniazid (INH)
4 and rifampicin (RFP) have not been reported. We attempted to elucidate the potential
5 effects and mechanisms of DATS against INH&RFP-caused hepatotoxicity.

6 **Methods** Male Kunming mice weighing 18-22g were divided into 6 groups. For the
7 hepatic-protective study, co-administrations of DATS (10mg/kg, 20mg/kg, and
8 40mg/kg bw, respectively) were orally administered two hours before the INH&RFP
9 (100mg/kg, 100mg/kg bw, respectively) treatments. After 11 days treatments, 10 mice
10 in each group were performed for the carbon clearance test, while the other 10 mice
11 were sacrificed for the collection of serum and livers for further measures, including
12 the levels of serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate transaminase (AST)
13 and total bilirubin (T.Bili), the liver index, and liver histopathological examination.
14 Malondialdehyde (MDA), glutathione (GSH), the carbon clearance test, the level of
15 interleukin 1- β (IL-1- β) and the immunohistochemistry of F4/80 marked for activated
16 kupffer cell (KC) were measured to investigate potential mechanisms.

17 **Results** DATS co-administration significantly inhibited the increase of liver index
18 and elevation of serum ALT, AST and T.Bili levels induced by INH&RFP, as well as
19 improved hepatocellular structure. The further mechanistic studies demonstrated that
20 DATS co-administration counteracted INH&RFP-induced oxidative stress in mice,
21 which was illustrated by the restoration of GSH levels, and the reduction of MDA
22 levels in liver. Furthermore, DATS co-administration reactivated the KCs inhibited by

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- 1 INH&RFP, which was illustrated by the increase of carbon phagocytosis, the
2 restoration of the number of activated KCs and IL-1- β levels in liver.
- 3 **Conclusion** DATS effectively protected liver against INH&RFP-induced
4 hepatotoxicity, which might be due to its antioxidant effect and enhancement of KCs'
5 activities.
- 6 **KEY WORDS** Diallyl trisulfide; Kupffer cell; Isoniazid; Rifampicin; hepatic
7 protection; Immune mechanism
- 8

1 INTRODUCTION

2 Tuberculosis (TB), an infectious disease induced by infection of *mycobacteria*,
3 remains a major public health problem and leading cause of morbidity and mortality
4 in the world. It is estimated that about 1/3 of the world's population have been
5 infected with *mycobacterium* TB, and the new infections occur in about 1% of the
6 population every year^{1,2}.

7 Isoniazid (INH) and rifampicin (RFP) are the first-line drugs for the treatment of TB.
8 Unfortunately, these drugs could cause serious adverse effects including drug induced
9 liver injury (DILI)³. Importantly, the DILI induced by INF&RFP may lead to the
10 termination of the TB treatment, which contributes to the emergence of drug-resistant
11 TB strains⁴. Therefore, it's an urgent task to find protective drugs against the injury
12 and/or find alternative drugs against TB.

13 Though the damage mechanism remains unclear, classical studies focusing on the
14 INH metabolism assumed that: After entering body, INH is mainly metabolized into
15 acetyl-INH by N-acetyltransferase (NAT2) in the liver and then acetyl-INH is
16 hydrolyzed into acetyl-hydrazine and isonicotinic acid. This pathway of metabolism is
17 mainly oxidized by CYP2E1 accompanied by the production of many reactive
18 hepatotoxins, such as acetyldiazene, ketienoe, ion and radical⁵⁻⁷. Additionally, a
19 number of INH undergoes a secondary metabolic pathway hydrolyzed into hydrazine
20 by amidase⁸. Both acetylhydrazine and hydrazine will generate the oxidative stress
21 and induce the hepatotoxicity. And a few studies have shown that co-administration
22 of RFP to INH could increase the productions of hepatotoxins such as hydrazine due
23 to its positive effect of CYP2E1 activation⁹⁻¹¹. Moreover, Metushi et al. have
24 demonstrated that INH also could be oxidized into diazohydroxide. INH itself and the

1 reactive metabolite form- diazohydroxide could covalent bind to the hepatic protein in
2 humans and mice. Both INH-protein and diazohydroxide-protein could induce the
3 increase of INH and an immune hepatotoxicity^{12, 13}.

4 Kupffer cells (KCs), resident in the liver, are the largest macrophage population in the
5 liver. The major function of KCs is to phagocytize foreign material, including both
6 opsonized and non-opsonized particles as well as to synthesize and release
7 proinflammatory cytokines, such as TNF- α . Both the macrophage inhibition and
8 increased inflammatory reaction of KCs will induce a liver injury¹⁴. Though more and
9 more hepatotoxins have been verified to cause damage via KCs¹⁵⁻¹⁷, it's unclear
10 whether INH&RFP could also induce hepatotoxicity by targeting on KCs.

11 Diallyl trisulfide (DATS) is an organic sulfide that riches in *S-allyl* cysteine extracted
12 from garlic. It has been well demonstrated that the organosulfur compounds are the
13 major component for the beneficial effects of garlic and its related products such as
14 garlic oil^{5,11}, which has been reported to have series biological effects, including
15 anti-oxidant, anti-tuberculosis, and anti-inflammation¹²⁻¹⁴. Moreover, recent studies
16 showed that DATS could alleviate various hepatotoxic effect by ethanol, naphthalene,
17 carbon tetrachloride (Ccl₄), arsenic et al. through attenuating oxidative stress¹⁸⁻²¹.

18 More interestingly, DATS was also reported to regulate the immune responses and
19 enhance the function of macrophage^{20, 22, 23}. These all imply that DATS could be a
20 potential drug to prevent the damage caused by INH&RFP.

21 To address the above question, our study was aimed to investigate the effects of
22 DATS on INH&RFP-induced liver injury. As known, the co-treatment of INH&RFP
23 is a standard regimen for anti-TB therapy clinically. We use a nonlethal, short-term

1 mouse model with co-administration of INH&RFP to certify it. The dose and time
2 frame of INH&RFP was defined according to the human-equivalent doses of mouse
3 as well as reference from previous studies . In those reports, the dose scopes of INH
4 were given from 50 to 200mg/kg bw, and the dose scopes of RFP were given from
5 100 to 200mg/kg bw^{24,25,26,27}. To ensure the hepatic injury and no lethal dose of the
6 co-treatment regimen in mice, a pilot study was performed prior to our formal
7 experiment and we found the dose of 100mg/kg bw+100mg/kg bw was the best
8 regimen for the short term model. And based on this model, we found that DATS
9 effectively protected liver against INH&RFP-induced hepatotoxicity, which might be
10 due to its antioxidant effect and enhancement of KCs' activities.

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1 MATERIALS and METHODS

2 Materials

3 DATS (purity > 97%) was purchased from Chia Tai of Jiangsu CN (Chia Tai, China);
4 Isoniazid Tablets ($C_6H_7N_3O$ 0.1g INH/tablet) and Rifampicin capsules ($C_{43}H_{58}N_4O_{12}$
5 0.15g/capsule), which were produced by Xinyi of Shanghai CN (Xinyi, China), were
6 obtained from Qilu Hospital, and then INH and RFP were 1:1 dissolve into
7 physiological saline; Corn oil was purchased from local market of Jinan CN
8 (GB19111, Gold Embryo CORVOIL Co., Shandong, China); Carbon ink was
9 purchased from Chemical Reagent of Beijing CN (Che Rea, China); ALT kit, AST kit,
10 and T.Bili kit were purchased from Biosino of Beijing CN (Biosino, China); GSH
11 assay kit and MDA assay kit were purchased from Njjcbio of Nanjing CN (Njjcbio,
12 China); Mouse IL-1- β sunny ELISA was purchased from Multi Sci of Beijing CN
13 (Multi Sci, China); Rat anti-mouse-F4/80 serotec was purchased from AbD of Oxford
14 UK (AbD, England); Rat IgG immunohistochemistry kit was purchased from Boster
15 of Wuhan CN (Boster, China).

16 Animals' Treatment

17 SPF male Kunming mice (18-22g) were provided by the Animal Center of Shandong
18 University (Jinan, China), Certificate of Laboratory Animal: SYXK (Jinan China)
19 20100011. 120 mice were maintained at approximately 22°C with a 12-h light: 12-h
20 dark cycle, and had free access to standard chow and tap water. After 5 days
21 acclimation to the laboratory conditions, the animals were randomly divided into 6
22 groups (n=20): mice in the INH&RFP+DATS groups and DATS group were treated

1 with DATS (10mg/kg, 20mg/kg, 40mg/kg, and 40mg/kg bw, respectively) by gavage
2 every day, while the mice in the control group and INH&RFP group received equal
3 volume (0.1ml/10g bw) of corn oil. Two hours after the DATS administration, all the
4 animals except those in the control group and DATS (40mg/kg bw) group orally
5 received an INH&RFP (100mg/kg and 100mg/kg bw, respectively), the control group
6 and DATS (40mg/kg bw) group orally got an equal volume (0.2ml/10g bw) of
7 physiological saline. During the treatments, the body weight was measured at 1, 4, 8,
8 11 days. After 11 days of co-administration, 10 mice of each group were anesthetized
9 at 24 hours after the last treatment. Blood was collected by eyeball extract method and
10 centrifuged at 1500×g for 20 minutes at 4 °C to obtain serum. Liver was stripped and
11 weighed. A portion of the liver was fixed in paraformaldehyde (4%) for
12 histopathology and immunohistochemistry, while the other portion of liver tissue was
13 quickly frozen in liquid nitrogen before storing at -80 °C. The other 10 mice in each
14 group were injected in India ink through tail vein (*i.v.*) to measure the phagocytic
15 capacities by the method of Hudson's *et al*¹⁰.

16 All animals procedures were performed according to the National Institutes of
17 Health Guidelines for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals which were approved
18 by the Animal Experimentation Committee of Shandong Universtity. All efforts were
19 made to minimize animal suffering during experiment.

20 **Measures of Serum Biochemical Index**

21 The levels of serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) (rate method, YZB0694, Beijing,
22 China), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) (rate method, YZB0693, Beijing, China),

1 total bilirubin (T.Bili) (diazonium salt method, YZB0121, Beijing, China) were
2 measured by GLAMOUR 1600 random access clinical analyzer (Buenos Aires,
3 Argentina) according to the protocols from manufacturers.

4

5 **Measures of Mice Phagocytic Capacities----Carbon clearance test**

6 The phagocytosis was measured *in vivo* using carbon clearance method as previously
7 reported¹⁶. In brief, carbon ink diluted with saline injections (dilution 1:3) was
8 injected to mice (*i.v.*, 0.1ml/10g bw) at the 2 minute, 10 minute interval after ink
9 injection, and then 20µl of blood, taken from the inner canthus venous plexus, were
10 added to 2ml 0.1%Na₂CO₃. After that, the mice were sacrificed, and the liver and
11 spleen were stripped, weighted. The absorbance (OD) of the solutions was measured
12 at 600 nm by Infinite M200 PROV of TECAN (Mannedorf, Switzerland) and
13 phagocytic index (a) was calculated as following formula.

$$14 \quad K = \frac{\log_{10} OD1 - \log_{10} OD2}{t2 - t1}$$

$$15 \quad a = \frac{\text{body weight}}{\text{liver weight} + \text{spleen weight}} \times \sqrt[3]{k}$$

16

17 **H&E Staining**

18 Liver histopathological examination was performed using hematoxylin and eosin
19 (H&E) staining. Slices of 5µm were prepared using paraffin slicer (Thermo), and then

1 deparaffinized, rehydrated, stained with H&E and then viewed by Olympus AX70
2 microscope of Tokyo JPN (Olympus, Japan).

3 **Immunohistochemistry of F4/80 marker for KCs**

4 The activation of KCs was measured using immunohistochemistry detection of F4/80
5 which is the well characterized and extensively referenced mouse macrophage
6 marker¹⁷. Briefly, Liver paraffin sections (5 μ m) were deparaffinized, blocked using
7 3% H₂O₂, and 5% normal goat serum, and then were incubated with rat monoclonal
8 antibody against mouse F4/80 (1:200) (serotec, MCA497G, Oxford, UK) at 4°C
9 overnight. The following steps were performed strictly according to the procedure of
10 a rat IgG immunohistochemistry kit (SABC method, BA1005, Wuhan, China), and
11 then viewed by Olympus AX70 microscope of Tokyo JPN (Olympus, Japan).

12 **Antioxidant Status Assay in the Liver**

13 liver tissues were homogenized in ice-cold 0.8% saline (w/v= 1:9), and then
14 centrifuged at 1000 \times g for 20min.at 4°C. The supernatant was collected and stored at
15 -80°C for antioxidant assay.

16 The levels of T-GSH, GSH and GSSH in the liver were determined by the 5,
17 5-dithio-bis-2-nitrobenzoic acid assay using the assay kit (Micro ELISA method,
18 A061-1, Nanjing, CN) according to the method described by the manufactures. The
19 reaction products, which were depended on the amounts of T-GSH and GSSH, had an
20 OD at 405nm by Infinite M200 PROV of TECAN (Mannedorf, Switzerland). And the
21 amount of GSH was obtained by subtracting the two T-GSH, GSSH.

1 Malondialdehyde (MDA) content was measured by the accumulation of thiobarbituric
2 acid-reactive substance and expressed for the Lipid peroxidation (LPO). Briefly, MDA
3 reacted with 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA) and a pink-colored product, which was
4 developed depended by the concentration of MDA, had an OD at 532 nm by Infinite
5 M200 PROV of TECAN (Mannedorf, Switzerland). The levels of MDA (nmol/ (mg
6 pro)) were analyzed using commercial assay kits (TAB method, A003-1, Nanjing, CN)
7 according to the manufacturer's instructions

8 **Quantification of IL-1 β levels in liver**

9 The levels of IL-1 β in liver were determined using an ELISA kit (EK201B2, Multi
10 SCI, CN) employed the quantitative sandwich enzyme immunoassay technique.
11 Briefly, the sample and standards were added to ELISA plate which had been
12 pre-coated with a monoclonal antibody specific for IL-1 β , and IL-1 β present was
13 bound by the immobilized antibody. The unbound substances were washed away, and
14 a biotin-linked monoclonal anti body specific for IL-1 β was added to the wells. After
15 a wash to remove any unbound substances, streptavidin-HRP was added. After
16 washing, substrate solution was added and the color, which has an OD at 450nm
17 measured by Infinite M200 PROV of TECAN (Mannedorf, Switzerland), developed
18 in proportion to the amount of IL-1 β .

19 **Statistical analysis**

20 All data were expressed as mean and standard deviation (SD). SPSS18.0 statistical
21 software was used for statistical analysis. Data was analyzed using one-way ANOVA
22 to compare the means among different groups and Tukey. For the comparisons

1 between two experimental groups (i.e. INH&RFP group versus control group or
2 INH&RFP+DATS groups versus INH&RFP group) was used LSD Test by SPSS 18.0
3 to be analyzed. A p value <0.05 was considered significant.

4 **RESULTS**

5 **Effects of DATS alone on the liver**

6 The DATS only administered group was added, the results there showed that only
7 with DATS no statistically significant differences in body weight and serum ALT,
8 AST, T.Bili were observed compared with control group. Normal lobular architecture
9 with normal cell morphology and no obvious pathological state were founded in both
10 DATS group and control group. These all intimated that DATS is a safe drug in the
11 study dose to the liver. (Figure 1 & Figure 2& Figure 3& Table 1 &Table 2)

12 **Effects of DATS on INH&RFP-Induced Hepatotoxicity**

13 *Effects of DATS and INF&RFP on the body weight, liver weight and liver index*

14 The body weights of mice were consecutively monitored in 11days. After INH&RFP
15 treatment, the body weight of mice showed a negative growth in INH&RFP group. At
16 the end of 11days, the final body weight of INH&RFP group was reduced by 4% of
17 the initial value, while that of control group was increased by 19% ($P<0.01$). By the
18 DATS co-administration, INH&RFP+DATS groups significantly reversed the body
19 weight depression induced by INH&RFP (5%, 10%, 5% in 10, 20, 40 mg/kg bw,
20 respectively) ($P<0.05$, $P<0.01$, $P<0.01$) at the end of 11days. (Figure1 & Table 1)

1 Table 1 showed the final body weight and liver weight of mice in six groups. The
2 relative liver weight in INH&RFP group was increased by 84.76% compared to
3 control group ($P<0.01$). Co-administration of 10, 20 and 40 mg/kg DATS
4 significantly reduced the relative liver weight as compared with INH&RFP group (P
5 < 0.01) by 12.5%, 17.40%, 24,28%, respectively. (Table 2)

6 *DATS co-treatment attenuated INF&RFP-induced increase of serum ALT, AST and*
7 *T.Bili levels*

8 The levels of serum ALT, AST and T.Bili were elevated in INH&RFP group
9 compared to control group ($P < 0.01$) (Figure 2): ALT activity increased from 45.98
10 ± 6.79 to 123.5 ± 15.89 U/L, $p<0.01$; AST activity increased from 100.44 ± 14.89 to
11 191.85 ± 40.89 U/L, $p<0.05$; T.Bili activity increased from 0.38 ± 0.71 to 11.36 ± 2.78 ,
12 which indicated the hepatic injury. DATS (10mg/kg, 20mg/kg, 40mg/kg, respectively)
13 co-administration groups were ameliorated in the levels of ALT and T.Bili ($P<0.05$ or
14 $P<0.01$) (Figure 2A) (Figure 2C), the levels of AST was also significantly refined in
15 INH&RFP+DATS (20 and 40mg/kg, respectively) compared with INH&RFP group
16 ($P<0.01$ or $P<0.05$) (Figure 2B)

17 *DATS co-treatment improved the liver histology in INH&RFP-intoxicated mice*

18 The control and DATS group (40mg/kg bw) had normal lobular architecture with
19 normal cell morphology and no obvious pathological state: cells closely packed in a
20 funicular, the cytoplasm with red dye, the nucleus homogeneous with blue dye. The
21 INH&RFP group emerged typical and obvious pathological characteristics in the
22 portal triad region and other liver regions including loose irregular arrangement of

1 liver cell, a large number of large, round cavity cells appeared and cell necrosis;
2 nuclei were large and deep dye, central venous blood stasis. Compared with
3 INH&RFP group, INH&RFP+DATS (10mg/kg bw) had a small amount of small
4 vacuoles cells. But in the INH&RFP+DATS (20 and 40mg/kg bw) group, the hepatic
5 injury were obviously recovered. (Figure 3)

6 **DATS co-treatment effectively blocked INH&RFP-induced decrease of GSH and**
7 **increase of MDA**

8 The levels of T-GSH, GSH in INH&RFP had a significant reduction in 31% ($P<0.05$),
9 51% ($P<0.01$) compared with control group. The contents of GSSH were higher than
10 control group up to 103% ($P<0.01$), but this damage were well reversed by
11 co-administration of INH&RFP and DATS (10, 20 and 40mg/kg bw; respectively).
12 The levels of T-GSH were increased by 17%, 20%, 45% ($P<0.05$), respectively. The
13 levels of GSH were increased by 48% ($P<0.01$), 51% ($P<0.01$), 95% ($P<0.01$),
14 respectively. And the levels of GSSH were declined by 26% ($P<0.05$), 38% ($P<0.05$),
15 40% ($P<0.01$), respectively. (Table 2)

16 The levels of MDA are an index of the intensity of lipid peroxidation damage in the
17 liver. The results showed that INH&RFP group had a higher increase of 164%
18 ($P<0.01$) than control group, while with the DATS co-administration, the
19 INH&RFP+DATS (10, 20 and 40 mg/kg bw, respectively) groups were significantly
20 decreased the content of MDA by 47% ($P<0.05$), 56% ($P<0.01$), 59% ($P<0.01$) in
21 comparison with INH&RFP group, respectively, (Table 2)

22 **DATS co-treatment improved the capacities of KCs induced by INH&RFP**

1 *DATS co-treatment improved the phagocytic capacities by the assay of carbon*
2 *clearance*

3 The assay of the carbon clearance test in INH&RFP group was decreased by 39%
4 contrast to the control group, and the results showed that DATS (10, 20, 40 mg/kg bw,
5 respectively) co-administration improved the carbon phagocytic capacities by 62%,
6 67%, 79% ($P<0.01$) contrast with the INH&RFP group. (Figure 4)

7 *DATS co-treatment led to the activation percent of the kupffer cells*

8 The immune staining for F4/80 of KCs in the liver showed that a reduction population
9 of activated KCs even despaired in INH&RFP group (Fig 5.). With co-administration
10 of DATS, the KCs in INH&RFP+DATS (10mg/kg bw), INH&RFP+DATS (20 mg/kg
11 bw) and INH&RFP+DATS (40 mg/kg bw) group were in varying degrees of
12 activations than INH&RFP group, and the activations were increased with the
13 increasing dose of DATS. (Figure 5)

14 *DATS co-treatment contributed to the normal secretion of IL-1- β by Kupffer cells*

15 The secretions of IL-1 β which was mainly secreted by KCs in the liver were
16 decreased in INH&RFP group contrast with control group ($P<0.01$). By the DATS
17 (10, 20, 40 mg/kg bw, respectively) treatments, the secretions of IL-1- β were similar
18 with the activation of KCs and was increased by 52% ($P<0.05$), 82% ($P<0.01$), 113%
19 ($P<0.01$), respectively. (Figure 6)

20 **DISCUSSION**

1 DATS has been shown to be an effective drug against many drugs and hepatotoxins
2 induced liver injuries, such as ethanol, naphthalene, carbon tetrachloride (C₄Cl₄)^{18-21, 28},
3 especially due to its powerful antioxidant functions. As a compound purified from
4 garlic, DATS had less toxicity and stronger antioxidant capability than other garlic
5 products. The hepatoprotective ability of DATS has received much studies, and it has
6 been verified to provide multiple benefits, e.g. anti-tuberculosis, immunoregulation²¹,
7 ^{22, 29-32}. But the effects of DATS on the INH&RFP-induced liver damage have not
8 been reported. Thus, the effect of DATS against the hepatotoxicity induced by
9 INH&RFP is worth to be studied.

10 ALT and AST are the most commonly indexes to assess the liver injury in vitro/vivo:
11 Serum ALT level ia a marker for the hepatotoxic effects while AST level is used to
12 measure the liver function.³³ The co-treatment of RFP also can result in a increase of
13 serum T.Bili level³⁴. In this study, the results showed that DATS co-treatment
14 significantly attenuated INF&RFP-induced increase of the serum ALT, AST, and
15 T.Bili levels. Besides, the histological examination showed that INF&RFP treatment
16 led to obvious liver injury shown as irregular arrangement of liver cells,
17 vacuolar degeneration, and necrosis, which were also significantly suppressed by
18 DATS co-treatment. These results strongly suggested that DATS effectively
19 abrogated INF/RFP-induced liver injury.

20 The mechanism of INH&RFP-induced liver injury has been wildly investigated in the
21 past decades, and the roles of GSH has been highlighted^{35, 36}. GSH is the largest
22 percent of non-enzymatic antioxidant in the liver, playing an important role in the
23 antioxidant events^{37, 38}. As known, oxidative stress results from an imbalance between

1 oxidants and antioxidants in favor of the oxidants. For the hepatotoxicity of
2 INH&RFP, except for the over-production of oxidative stress, reduced GSH level
3 after INH or hydrazine administration to rats indicates that the decrease of GSH might
4 be also involved in their hepatotoxicity. In the antioxidant activities, the GSH is
5 depleted by free radicals and other oxygen species produced by the hepatotoxins, such
6 as acetyldiazene, ketienoe, ion and radical metabolized by INH&RFP, and oxidized
7 into GSSH^{10,39}. In this study, we found a 31% decrease of GSH and 103% increase of
8 GSSH after the INH&RFP administration for 11days. Parallely, in consistent with
9 previous studies, it was noticed that INH&RFP exposure also led to significant
10 increase of hepatic MDA levels, which is a biomarker of oxidative stress and lipid
11 peroxidation. The results showed that MDA was increased 164%. However, DATS
12 co-administration significantly elevated the GSH levels by 17%, 20%, 45%, and
13 suppressed the increase of MDA level by 47%, 56%, 59%, which suggested that the
14 restoration of GSH might be a mechanism for the protective effects and the
15 antioxidant ability might be at least partially account for the protection against
16 INH&RFP-induced liver injury.

17 In addition to the oxidative stress, a number of studies have suggested that
18 immune system was involved in INH&RFP-induced hepatotoxicity^{40,41}. Metushi et al.
19 demonstrated that Cb-b^{-/-}, PD1^{-/-} mice (which have impaired immune tolerance) and
20 the Rag^{-/-} mice (which lack of T- and B- cells) were more vulnerable to INH-induced
21 hepatotoxicity compared with the wild type C57BL/6 mice, which suggested that INH
22 treatment led to immunosuppression⁴². Several other studies also suggested that TB
23 treatment could result in immune impairment^{43,44}. In view of the KCs are the largest

1 macrophages, and is the first step in the immune response of the liver, we detected the
2 number of activated KCs by using immunochemistry assay of the KCs markers, F4/80,
3 the results showed that INH&RFP exposure led to the significant decrease of the KCs
4 number; And then the clearance of the carbon which was often been represented for
5 the phagocytic activity of macrophages (KCs) and the secretion of IL-1- β were
6 also decreased by 39% and 39.8% after INH&RFP treatment. The results that
7 confirmed the inhibited activity of Kupffer cells reduced by INH&RFP were parallel
8 to the reported impairment of the immune system by INH&RFP as we mentioned.
9 Interestingly, DATS co-treatment led to significant increase of the number hepatic
10 Kupffer cells as well as the increase of the phagocytic capacity. These results
11 suggested that Kupffer cells depletion might be involved in INH&RFP-induced
12 hepatotoxicity, and DATS could protect against INH&RFP-induced hepatotoxicity by
13 activation of Kupffer cells.

14 In summary, our study demonstrated that DATS could effectively suppress
15 INH&RFP-induced increase of serum ALT, AST, and T.Bili levels and improve the
16 liver morphological changes, which might be associated with the antioxidant capacity
17 and the immunoregulatory capacity. The results of the current study suggested that
18 DATS might be candidate hepatoprotective drug for TB patients receiving INH&RFP.

19 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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22 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

1 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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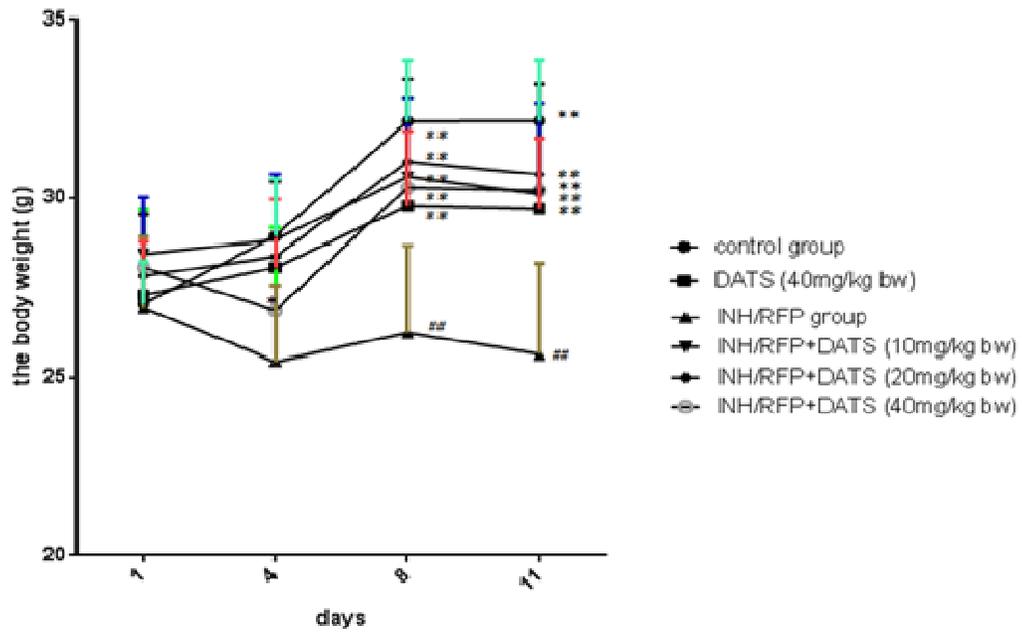
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1 **Figure legends**

2 **Figure1.**



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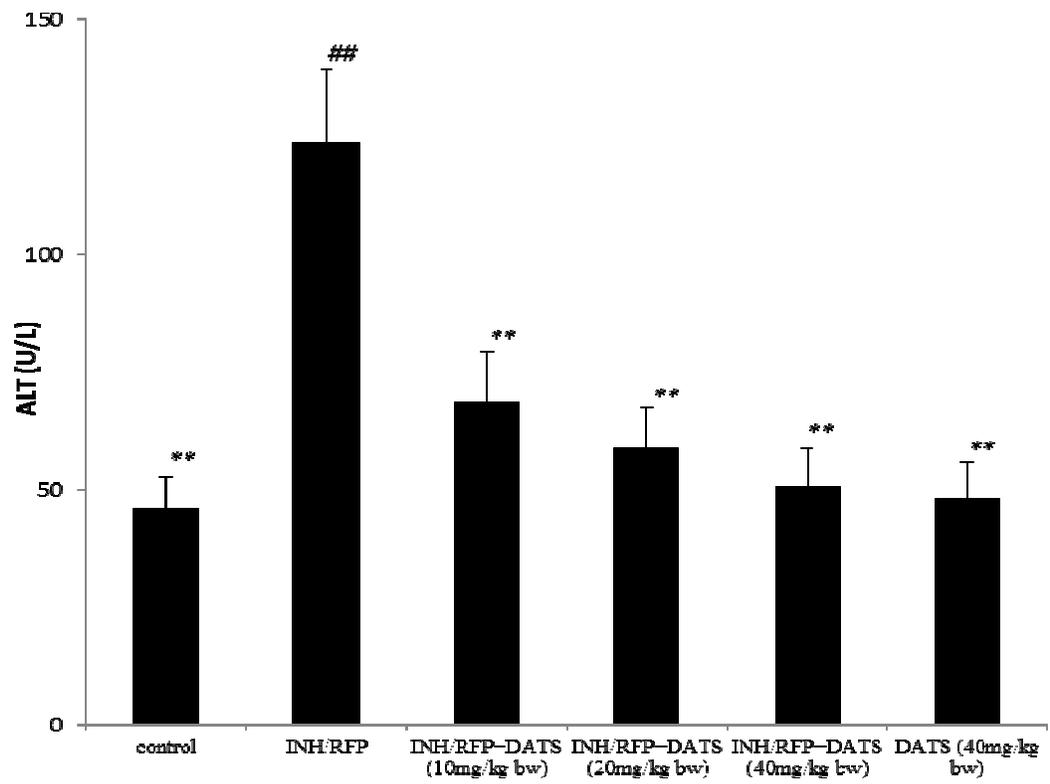
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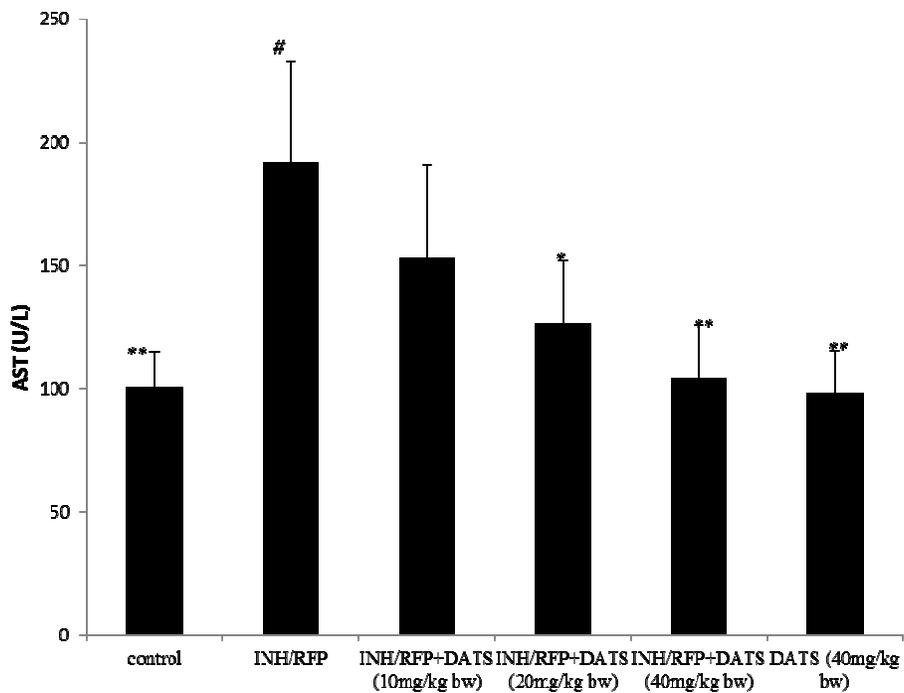
1 **Figure 2.**

2 A)



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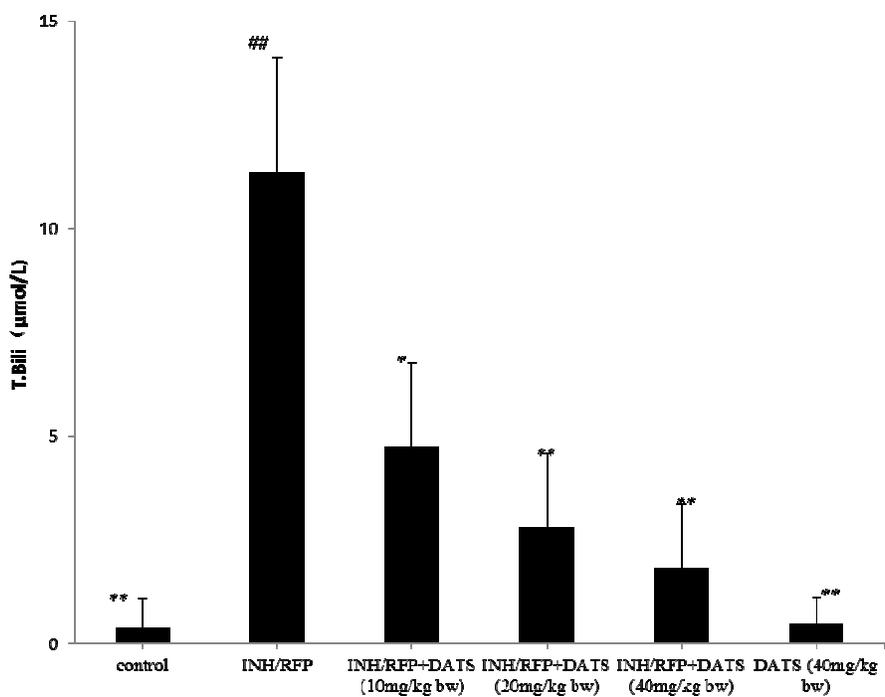
4 B)



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C)



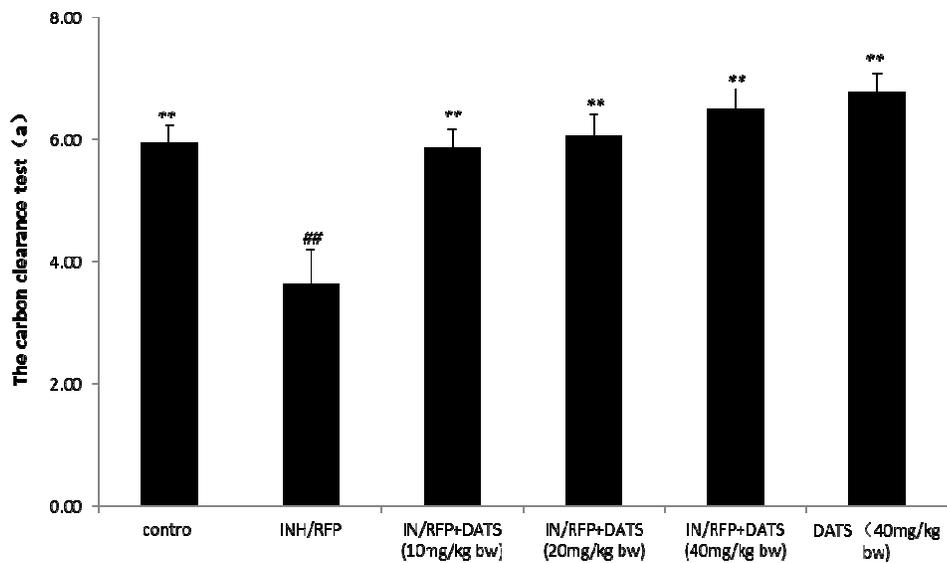
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2 **Figure 3.**

3 Seen in the image 1.

4 A was for control group, B was for DATS (40mg/kg bw) group, C was for INH/RFP
5 group, D was for INH/RFP+DATS (10mg/kg bw), E was for INH/RFP+DATS (20mg/kg bw),
6 F was for INH/RFP+DATS (40mg/kg bw).

7 **Figure 4.**

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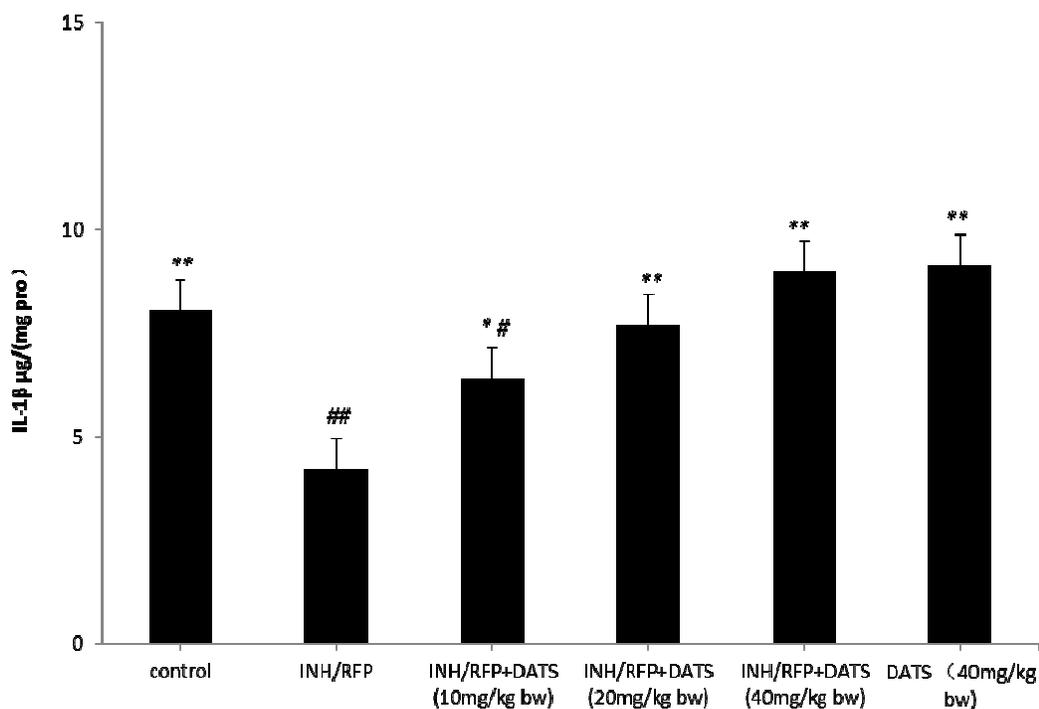
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10 **Figure 5.**

11 Seen in the image 2.

1 A was for control group, B was for DATS (40mg/kg bw) group, C was for INH/RFP
 2 group, D was for INH/RFP+DATS (10mg/kg bw), E was for INH/RFP+DATS (20mg/kg bw),
 3 F was for INH/RFP+DATS (40mg/kg bw).

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5 **Figure 6.**

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9 **Figure 1.** The changes of body weight in six groups during the study shown as Mean ±
 10 S.D. Compared with control group, # $P<0.05$, ## $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group,
 11 * $P<0.05$, ** $P<0.01$.

1 **Figure 2.** (A) The levels of serum ALT (U/L) in the six group shown as Mean \pm S.D.
2 Compared with control group, [#] $P<0.05$, ^{##} $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group, ^{*} $P<0.05$,
3 ^{**} $P<0.01$.

4 (B) The levels of serum AST (U/L) in the six group shown as Mean \pm S.D. Compared
5 with control group, [#] $P<0.05$, ^{##} $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group, ^{*} $P<0.05$, ^{**} $P<0.01$.

6 (C) The levels of serum T.Bili (μ mol/L) in the six group shown as Mean \pm S.D. Compared
7 with control group, [#] $P<0.05$, ^{##} $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group, ^{*} $P<0.05$, ^{**} $P<0.01$.

8 **Figure 3.** The H&E staining of the livers of different groups. Pictures were original
9 captured at 100 \times magnification. The bar represents 100 μ m. A was represented for control
10 group. B was for DATS (40mg/kg bw). C was for INH&RFP group. D was for
11 INH&RFP+DATS (10mg/kg bw). E was for INH&RFP+DATS (20mg/kg bw). F was for
12 INH&RFP+DATS (40mg/kg bw)

13 **Figure 4.** The assay of carbon clearance test (a) shown as Mean \pm S.D. Compared with
14 control group, [#] $P<0.05$, ^{##} $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group, ^{*} $P<0.05$, ^{**} $P<0.01$.

15 **Figure 5.** The immune stain for F4/80 of KC in six groups. Pictures were original
16 captured at 200 \times magnification. The bar represents 100 μ m.

17 A was represented for control group. B was for DATS (40mg/kg bw). C was for
18 INH&RFP group. D was for INH&RFP+DATS (10mg/kg bw). E was for INH&RFP+DATS
19 (20mg/kg bw). F was for INH&RFP+DATS (40mg/kg bw)

20 **Figure 6.** The levels of IL-1- β (pg/(mg pro)) in the six group shown as Mean \pm S.D.
21 Compared with control group, [#] $P<0.05$, ^{##} $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group, ^{*} $P<0.05$,
22 ^{**} $P<0.01$.

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25 **Tables Legends**

1 **Table 1. The comparison of body and liver weight in six groups (mean±S.D.)**

| groups | Final body weight (g) | liver weight (g) | liver index (%) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| control group | 29.14±2.03** | 1.23±0.13** | 4.20±0.35** |
| DATS (40mg/kg) | 27.66±2.27** | 1.24±0.20** | 4.45±0.36** |
| INH&RFP group | 22.75±3.07## | 1.82±0.44## | 7.76±0.7## |
| INH&RFP+D ATS (10mg/kg bw) | 27.13±2.44** | 1.84±0.29** | 6.79±0.62***# # |
| INH&RFP+D ATS (20mg/kg bw) | 27.83±2.12** | 1.80±0.24** | 6.41±0.45***# # |
| INH&RFP+D ATS (40mg/kg bw) | 27.24±2.04** | 1.61±0.22** | 5.86±0.40***# # |

- 1 Compared with control group, [#] $P<0.05$, ^{##} $P<0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group,
 2 ^{*} $P<0.05$, ^{**} $P<0.01$.

3 **Table 2. The levels of T-GSH, GSH, GSSH and MDA (mean±S.D.)**

| | T-GSH | GSSH | GSH | MDA |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | µg/(mg pro) | µg/(mg pro) | µg/(mg pro) | nmol/(mg pro) |
| Control group | 390.69±30.7 2 ^{**} | 50.70±14.23 ** | 340.00±29.5 6 ^{**} | 1.56±0.43 ** |
| DATS (40mg/kg bw) | 405.98±31.8 2 ^{**} | 55.80±13.34 ** | 350.18±30.4 3 ^{**} | 1.58±0.47 ** |
| INH&RFP | 267.74±57.4 5 ^{##} | 103.01±33.0 ## | 164.73±68.6 2 ^{##} | 4.12±0.83 ## |
| INH&RFP+ DATS (10mg/kg bw) | 312.95±47.4 3 [*] | 76.02±26.62 * | 244.64±50.1 6 ^{**##} | 2.18±0.57 * |
| INH&RFP+ DATS (20mg/kg bw) | 320.37±37.3 6 ^{**} | 63.47±18.67 * | 249.47±37.1 0 ^{**##} | 1.81±0.46 ** |
| INH&RFP+ DATS (40mg/kg bw) | 387.42±40.5 5 ^{**} | 61.80±20.39 ** | 320.62±43.1 7 ^{**} | 1.69±0.47 ** |

bw)

1 Compared with control group, [#] $P < 0.05$, ^{##} $P < 0.01$; Compared with INH&RFP group,

2 ^{*} $P < 0.05$, ^{**} $P < 0.01$.

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1 **Abbreviations**

2 DATS diallyl trisulfide

3 INH isoniazid

4 RFP rifampicin]

5 ALT aminotransferase

6 AST aspartate transaminase

7 T.Bili total bilirubin

8 MDA Malondialdehyde

9 GSH glutathione

10 IL-1- β interleukin 1- β

11 KC kupffer cell

12 T-GSH total-glutathione

13 GSSH oxidized glutathione

14 TB Tuberculosis

15 DILI drug induced liver injury

16 TBA 2-thiobarbituric acid

17 SD standard deviation

1 ROS reactive oxygen species

image 1

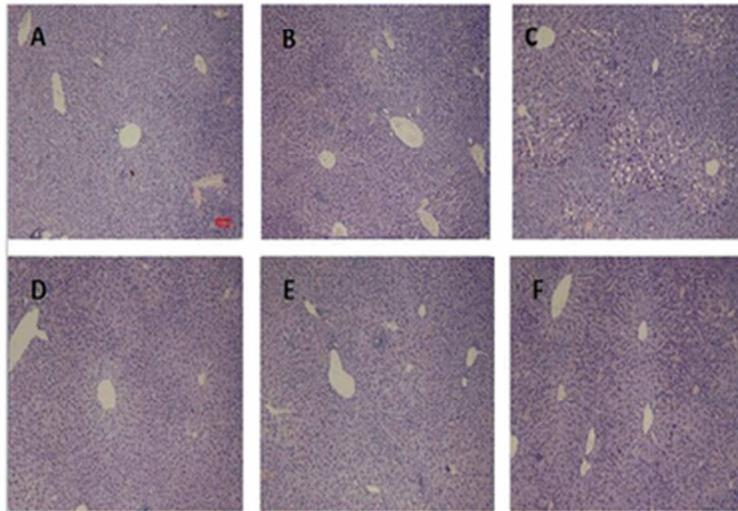


Image 1
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image 2

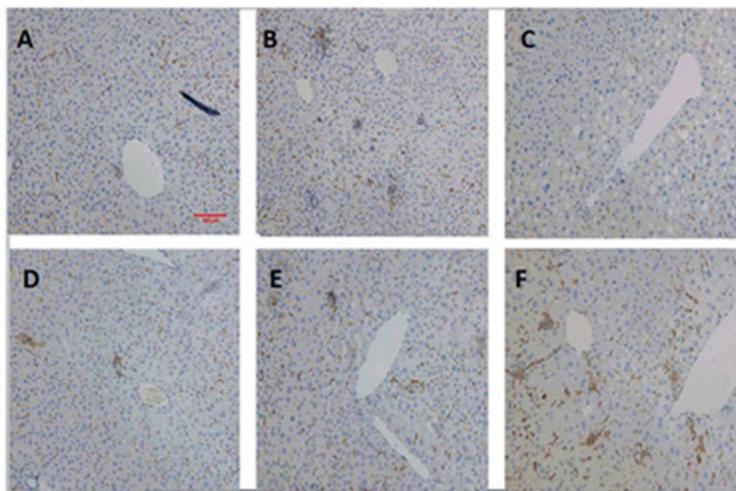


Image 2
16x13mm (600 x 600 DPI)