

1 **Title:** Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells stimulated by tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  can  
2 promote the repair of fatty liver cell oxidative stress injury and fatty liver  
3 ischemia-reperfusion injury

4 **Running title:** BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  promote the repair

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21 **Abstract** Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) have great prospects for the treatment of  
22 ischemia-reperfusion injury (IRI) after liver transplantation. At this stage, the main factor  
23 limiting MSCs in the treatment of fatty liver IRI of the donor liver is the residence time of  
24 stem cells at the site of inflammatory injury. This study investigated whether bone  
25 marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) stimulated by tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ )  
26 can promote the repair of fatty liver cell oxidative stress injury and fatty liver IRI in rats.  
27 The results indicated the BMSCs treatment group stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  had lower indexes  
28 and significantly improved oxidative stress damage in vitro through Transwell chamber  
29 co-culture experiment, compared with the control group. In vivo, compared with the PBS  
30 group and the BMSCs group, the indexes of the BMSCs treatment group stimulated by  
31 TNF- $\alpha$  were reduced, and the degree of tissue damage was significantly reduced. BMSCs  
32 can repair fatty liver cell oxidative stress injury and fatty liver IRI, however, BMSCs  
33 stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  can promote the repair of tissues and cells.

34

35 **Key words:** Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells, tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , fatty liver  
36 cells, oxidative stress injury, ischemia-reperfusion injury

### 37 **Introduction**

38 Liver transplantation is the only effective way to treat end-stage liver disease. With  
39 the increasing maturity of liver transplantation technology and the increasing number of  
40 liver transplant patients, the shortage of donor livers has become more prominent 1. How

41 to safely use marginal donor liver has become a research hotspot. As a kind of marginal  
42 donor liver, fatty liver has short storage time and is more sensitive to IRI, these problems  
43 are more likely to lead to postoperative complications such as primary no function (PNF)  
44 and early graft dysfunction<sup>2</sup>. With the increase in the national obesity rate and the aging  
45 population in my country, the proportion of fatty liver in the donor liver pool in China is  
46 also increasing. Finding a repair method to improve the safety and utilization of fatty  
47 liver donor liver is what we urgently and urgently need to solve.

48 In recent years, more and more studies have shown that MSCs have great prospects  
49 for the treatment of IRI after liver transplantation<sup>3,4</sup>. At this stage, the main factor  
50 limiting MSCs in the treatment of fatty liver IRI of the donor liver is the residence time of  
51 stem cells at the site of inflammatory injury. TNF- $\alpha$  is the main cytokine in the process of  
52 inflammation, and MSCs stimulated by cytokine can specifically bind to a large number  
53 of selectin ligands accumulated on the microvascular intima at the site of IRI, there is a  
54 scientific hypothesis that allows more BMSCs to stay in the ischemic part of the damaged  
55 liver<sup>56</sup>. Therefore, this experiment aims to explore whether BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$   
56 can promote the repair of fatty liver cell oxidative stress injury and fatty liver IRI in rats.

## 57 **Result**

58 **Preparation of BMSCs and establishment of oxidative stress model of IAR-20**  
59 **fatty liver cells.** There were specific protein expressions on the surface of BMSCs.  
60 According to the expression results of CD79, CD45, CD90, and CD29 detected by flow

61 cytometry, the extracted cells were determined to be BMSCs (FIG. 1 A), which can be  
62 followed up for research.

63 After stimulating IAR-20 cells with 100 $\mu$ M sodium palmitate and 200 $\mu$ M sodium  
64 oleate for 24 hours, a stable fatty liver cell model was formed (FIG. 1 B). After  
65 stimulating fatty liver cells with 3mmol/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 3 hours, the cell viability was  
66 significantly reduced, which was about 50% of the cell viability of non-oxidative stress  
67 (FIG. 1 C).

68 These results confirmed that 3mmol/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was the optimal concentration for  
69 establishing an oxidative stress model.

70 **Repair effect of BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  on fatty liver cells damaged by**  
71 **oxidative stress in vitro.** After 72 hours of co-cultivation in the Transwell chamber, the  
72 supernatant of cells in the lower chamber was collected to detect the function of liver  
73 cells and the expression levels of inflammatory factors in each experimental group.  
74 Compared with the H-IAR 20 group, the ALT and AST of the T-IAR 20 group and the  
75 B-IAR 20 group were significantly lower, but there was no significant difference in the  
76 ALB level of each group (FIG. 2 A). Compared with the H-IAR 20 group, the  
77 inflammatory indexes of the cell supernatant of the T-IAR 20 group were significantly  
78 reduced, and the T-IAR 20 group had a lower level of inflammatory factor expression  
79 than the B-IAR 20 group (FIG. 2 B), indicating that compared with the control group,  
80 BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  improved the liver function and inflammation of fatty liver

81 cells damaged by oxidative stress.

82 CCK-8 assay was used to detect the cell viability of IAR-20, the greater the  
83 absorbance, the stronger the cell viability. The results showed that compared with the  
84 H-IAR 20 group, the absorbance of the B-IAR 20 group and the T-IAR 20 group was  
85 significantly increased, and the cell viability of the injured hepatocytes was significantly  
86 enhanced after BMSCs treatment (FIG. 2 C).

87 Understand cell apoptosis through flow cytometry. According to flow cytometry, the  
88 first, second, and fourth quadrants represented cell apoptosis in different periods.  
89 Compared with the H-IAR 20 group, the apoptosis rate of hepatocytes in the B-IAR 20  
90 and T-IAR 20 groups was significantly lower (FIG. 3 A, B). The expression levels of  
91 HO-1 and bcl-2 represent the anti-oxidative stress and anti-apoptotic ability of cells,  
92 respectively. Western blot showed that the expression of HO-1 and bcl-2 proteins in the  
93 T-IAR 20 group were significantly increased, and their anti-oxidative stress and  
94 anti-apoptotic capabilities were enhanced (FIG. 3 C, D). The above results indicate that in  
95 in vitro experiments, BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  have a repairing effect on fatty liver  
96 cells damaged by oxidative stress.

97 **Repair effect of BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  on IRI of fatty liver in rats in vivo.**

98 The fatty liver model of rats was established by high-fat diet, and the degree of fatty liver  
99 was confirmed by oil red O staining. The proportion of steatosis in liver lobules reached  
100 more than 3/4, showing diffuse steatosis, which is severe fatty liver (FIG. 4 A). An

101 ischemia-reperfusion model was artificially constructed by surgery (FIG. 4 B). Finally, it  
102 was seen that the clipped liver lobe was dark red and large congestion areas appeared.

103 12 hours after the treatment of ischemia-reperfusion injury in rats, tissues were  
104 collected for detection of liver function, inflammatory factors and other related  
105 indexes. The ALT index level of the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group was significantly  
106 lower than that of the PBS treatment group. The TBil index level of the PBS treatment  
107 group was significantly higher than that of the Sham group. After treatment with BMSCs,  
108 the TBil expression level decreased, while the TBil index of the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment  
109 group decreased more significantly, and there was no significant change in AST  
110 expression (FIG.5 A). The expression of inflammatory factors in the PBS treatment group  
111 was significantly higher than that in the sham group, the BMSCs treatment group and  
112 BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group were compared with the PBS treatment group, the  
113 inflammatory indexes TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 were significantly reduced, however IL-1 $\beta$  and  
114 INF- $\gamma$  was not significantly different (FIG. 5 B). Therefore, the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment  
115 group had a greater impact on liver function and its inflammatory factors, which can  
116 improve liver function status and reduce inflammation. In rat liver tissues, the expression  
117 levels of bcl-2 and HO-1 proteins tended to be consistent with the in vitro experimental  
118 results. The expressions of the two proteins in the BMSCs treatment group and the  
119 BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group were significantly higher than those in the PBS treatment  
120 group (FIG.5 C, D), BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  also exerted strong anti-oxidation and anti-apoptosis

121 abilities in vivo.

122 The results of pathological HE staining of liver tissues in each group showed that the  
123 BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group reduced liver tissue damage to a greater extent than the  
124 other groups (FIG. 6 A). Injecting CM-Dil labeled BMSCs into SD rats can more  
125 intuitively observe the status of BMSCs in the liver. It was observed by fluorescence  
126 microscope that the number of BMSCs in the liver in the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group  
127 was significantly higher than that in the BMSCs treatment group (FIG. 6 B, C).

128 These results showed that, whether in vivo or in vitro, TNF- $\alpha$  can enhance the  
129 functions of cell homing and repair by stimulating BMSCs, and promote the  
130 anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant and other repair effects of IRI.

### 131 **Discussion and Conclusion**

132 MSCs are widely distributed in various parts of the body and are a type of adult stem  
133 cells with self-renewal and multi-differentiation potential. It can participate in the repair  
134 process and participate in the inflammatory response 7 through mechanisms such as cell  
135 fusion or differentiation, paracrine<sup>8</sup>, gene carriers, immunomodulatory function<sup>9</sup>, homing  
136 and initiation of endogenous repair. BMSCs are mesenchymal stem cells that exist in the  
137 bone marrow stroma without hematopoietic function. Compared with other MSCs,  
138 BMSCs have unique advantages such as relatively easy extraction and weak  
139 immunogenicity<sup>10</sup>, it can proliferate indefinitely in vitro and has the potential to  
140 differentiate into tissue cells derived from mesoderm and neuroectoderm.

141 BMSC repairs oxidative stress damage through a variety of mechanisms: such as  
142 secretion of growth factors, regulation of cell and tissue activity through cytokines and  
143 chemokines, and immune regulation 12-15. Related in vitro experimental studies have  
144 shown that co-culture of hepatocytes and BMSCs can better maintain the original shape  
145 of hepatocytes, and maintain the ability of hepatocytes to synthesize albumin and carry  
146 out ammonia metabolism at a higher level<sup>16</sup>, studies have also shown that co-culture of  
147 liver cells and MSCs can enhance liver cell function and maintain liver cell metabolism  
148 18, CAMUSSI G 19 and others believe that the soluble factors produced by BMSCs, the  
149 secreted extracellular matrix components, and the ratio of hepatocytes/BMSCs co-culture  
150 are all involved in the protection of hepatocytes, in vitro experiments using porcine  
151 hepatocytes showed that when hepatocytes/BMSCs were co-cultured at a ratio of 2:1,  
152 hepatocytes had the best ability to synthesize albumin and urea. Yu-Ting He 20 and others  
153 used hepatocytes/MSCs at a culture ratio of 5:1 for culture to generate stable primary  
154 hepatocytes. MINHUI LI 21 and others co-cultured hUc-MSC and HK-2 cells at a ratio of  
155 12:1 to prove that hepatocyte growth factor derived from human umbilical cord blood  
156 mesenchymal stem cells promoted autophagy in HK-2 cells treated with AOPP. Studies  
157 have considered that the co-culture system can make BMSCs differentiate into  
158 hepatocytes to a certain extent 21,25, but the co-culture experiment of BMSCs such as  
159 Lange has proved that the proportion of BMSCs differentiation into hepatocytes is very  
160 small in a relatively short period of time<sup>26</sup>, the impact on the experiment is not large.



161 Therefore, in this experiment, the indirect co-cultivation method was used to co-culture  
162 IAR-20 and BMSCs, and the co-cultivation ratio was 5:1.

163 The BMSCs stimulated by cytokines can produce specific protein receptors, which  
164 bind to the large number of selectin ligands accumulated on the microvascular intima of  
165 the injured site, so that more BMSCs can act on the injured site, and further repair the  
166 tissue. The stimulated MSCs are further activated to further activate the functions of  
167 paracrine and immune regulation, and promote tissue repair. It has been reported in the  
168 literature that TNF- $\alpha$  can promote the proliferation and migration of BMSCs 26, he 27  
169 and others proved that low concentrations of IFN- $\gamma$  can promote the proliferation and  
170 migration of dental pulp MSCs, and inhibit their differentiation. Koning 28and others  
171 proved that inflammatory factors play an important role in stimulating the migration of  
172 MSCs. Essid 29 and others found that TNF- $\alpha$  at a concentration of 20 ng/ml can induce  
173 rat hepatocyte apoptosis. In this experiment, 10 ng/ml TNF- $\alpha$  was selected to  
174 pre-stimulate BMSCs, which can improve the proliferation and migration ability of  
175 BMSCs to a certain extent, further activate BMSCs, and prevent inflammatory factors  
176 from inducing rat hepatocyte apoptosis.

177 The liver IRI during liver transplantation includes two parts: cold and warm IRI<sup>30</sup>.  
178 In this experiment, a surgical model established by simulating liver warm IRI was to  
179 clamp part of the blood supply vessels of the rat liver to achieve 70% of the liver tissue  
180 ischemia<sup>31</sup>, and open the blood flow after 30 minutes of clamping. Using this method to

181 establish a model can achieve effective liver tissue damage and ensure the survival rate of  
182 rats during surgery.

183 MSCs have been proved to be safe and effective for clinical treatment, but the  
184 treatment effect of MSCs alone is weak. MSCs died in the first few hours of  
185 transplantation, and their homing efficiency was low due to in vitro culture and other  
186 reasons. Therefore, improving the survival rate and homing ability of MSCs in vivo is an  
187 important part of improving the therapeutic effect of MSCs. Methods such as  
188 overexpression of chemokines<sup>32</sup> and increasing the expression level of adhesion  
189 molecules<sup>33</sup> are used to explore and improve the homing, survival, and function of  
190 BMSCs. In this experiment, the inflammatory factor TNF- $\alpha$  was used to pre-stimulate  
191 BMSCs for 24 hours to promote the expression of cell surface-related adhesion molecules  
192 and activate cell functions, so as to enhance the homing ability of BMSCs and the  
193 anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant repair effects on damaged liver tissues.

194 In summary, after low-dose TNF- $\alpha$  pre-stimulated BMSCs, the ability of BMSCs to  
195 repair the oxidative stress damage of fatty liver cells in vitro had been significantly  
196 enhanced, and TNF- $\alpha$  enhanced the functions of cell homing and repair by stimulating  
197 BMSCs, and promoted the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant repair effects of HIRI.  
198 Therefore, this experiment provides theoretical basis and new ideas for optimizing the  
199 clinical treatment plan, improving the therapeutic effect of stem cells, and repairing liver  
200 IRI.

201 **Materials and Methods**

202 **Experimental animals.** Healthy SPF male SD rats, 8-10 weeks old, weighing  
203 200-250g, and healthy SPF male SD rats, 2-4 weeks old, weighing 40-60g, purchased  
204 from China Food and Drug Control Research Institute, the culture environment did not  
205 exceed 5 per cage, free drinking water, the breeding environment temperature was  
206  $(24\pm 2)$  °C, and the relative humidity was  $(60\pm 10)$  %.

207 **Ethics approval.** All animal experiments were approved by the Experimental  
208 Animal Ethics Committee of Nankai University and processed according to the national  
209 and international rules of animal welfare.

210 **The preparation, identification and pretreatment of BMSCs.** Male SD rats of 2  
211 to 4 weeks old and weighing 40 to 60 g were sacrificed under anesthesia with sodium  
212 pentobarbital (Hubei Hongyunlong Biotechnology Co., Ltd.) and placed in 75% alcohol  
213 for 15 minutes, under aseptic conditions, separated the femur and tibia, cutted off the  
214 epiphyses on both sides, used a 5ml syringe to flush out the cells, filtered twice with a  
215  $40\mu\text{m}$  sieve, added 5ml of red blood cell lysate, placed at 4°C for 10-15 minutes, stopped  
216 the lysis and centrifuged to collect the buffy coat cells, resuspended in MEM- $\alpha$  medium  
217 (HyClone, USA) containing 15% FBS (HyClone, USA) and antibiotics (100 U/mL  
218 penicillin G and 100 mg/mL streptomycin), cultivated in a 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> cell incubator,  
219 and cultivated to the third generation for use.

220 Selected the 3rd generation of well-growing BMSCs to adjust the cell concentration

221 to  $5 \times 10^5$  cells/100 $\mu$ l, and added anti-CD 29-PE, anti-CD 90-FITC, anti-CD 45-FITC, and  
222 anti-CD 79-PE (eBioscience, USA), incubated for 30 min at room temperature in the dark,  
223 washed with PBS (HyClone, USA), centrifuged, and resuspended in 100 $\mu$ l PBS. Used  
224 flow cytometry to detect the expression levels of the four proteins on the surface of  
225 BMSCs cells.

226 BMSCs were cultured to the third generation, 10ng/ml TNF- $\alpha$  (Peprotech, USA) was  
227 added to the cell culture medium of BMSCs, and cultured in a cell incubator for 24 hours.

228 **Cell culture and establishment of oxidative stress injury model of fatty liver**  
229 **cells.** Mouse normal liver cells IAR-20 were purchased from the Cell Resource Center of  
230 the Institute of Basic Medicine, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. Cultured in  
231 MEM/EBSS (HyClone, USA) medium containing 10% FBS and antibiotics (100 U/mL  
232 penicillin G and 100 mg/mL streptomycin) in a 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> cell incubator.

233 Inoculated normal IAR-20 in a 96-well plate, the number of cells was about  
234  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/well, used high-fat complete medium containing 10% FBS and antibiotics,  
235 200 $\mu$ M sodium oleate (Sigma O-7501, USA)-100 $\mu$ M sodium palmitate (Sigma P-9767,  
236 USA) for 24h. After the hepatocytes were fatty, 3mmol/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added for  
237 stimulation, the stimulation time gradient was set to 0h, 0.5h, 1h, 2h, 3h, and the best  
238 stimulation time was selected.

239 **Co-cultivation of Transwell Chamber System and Grouping of Cell**  
240 **Experiments.** Used transwell chambers (corning, USA) for indirect co-cultivation. The

241 upper chamber was BMSCs ( $2 \times 10^5$ /well) and the lower chamber was IAR-20  
242 ( $1 \times 10^6$ /well). The total culture was 72 hours, and each group had 3 replicate wells, taked  
243 out the cell, collected the cell culture supernatant, washed twice with PBS, trypsin  
244 (Solarbio, China) digestion and centrifugation to collect the hepatocytes in each well.  
245 According to different co-cultivation systems, the cells were divided into fatty IAR-20  
246 group (IAR 20 group), oxidative stress damaged fatty IAR-20 group (H-IAR 20 group),  
247 oxidative stress damaged fatty IAR-20 and BMSCs co-culture group (B-IAR 20 group),  
248 fatty IAR-20 damaged by oxidative stress and BMSCs co-culture group (T-IAR 20 group)  
249 stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  in 4 groups.

#### 250 **Establishment of fatty liver IRI model and grouping of animal experiments.**

251 Choose 8-10 weeks old male SD rats weighing 200-250g, give Methionone- and  
252 Choline-deficient (MCD) model feed (Nantong Trofe Feed Technology Co., Ltd.) diet for  
253 2 weeks to establish a stable fatty liver model. Intraperitoneal injection of 1% sodium  
254 pentobarbital (40mg/kg) to maintain the anesthesia of the donor rat, clamped the left outer  
255 and left middle hepatic artery trunks, and opened the blood vessels after clamping for 30  
256 minutes, used an insulin needle to inject 0.5ml of the treatment liquid through the portal  
257 vein, close the abdominal cavity, and put it into the postoperative recovery box for  
258 resuscitation. Grouped according to different treatment methods: ① Sham operation  
259 group (Sham group), ② Fatty liver IRI PBS treatment group (PBS group), ③ BMSCs  
260 treatment group for fatty liver IRI (BMSCs group), ④ BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$

261 treatment group for fatty liver IRI(TNF- $\alpha$ /BMSCs group) .

262 **Detection index.** Liver function indexes: ALT, AST, ALB, using ELISA kit (Youda,  
263 China) to detect inflammation indicators: IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , INF- $\gamma$ , the luminescence  
264 situation of CM-Dil in BMSCs.

265 **CCK-8 assay.** After 72 hours of co-cultivation, the cells from the lower chamber  
266 were collected and added to a 96-well plate. The number of cells was about 5000  
267 cells/well. Added 10 $\mu$ l of CCK-8 (Solarbio, China) to each well, incubated for 1h in a cell  
268 incubator, and detected the OD value at a wavelength of 450nm using a microplate  
269 reader.

270 **ANNEXIN V-FITC/PI detects cell apoptosis.** After 72 hours of co-cultivation,  
271 collected the IAR-20 cells in the six-well plate, washed with PBS, suspended the cells  
272 with 1ml of 1 $\times$  Binding Buffer, centrifuged and discarded the supernatant, and then  
273 resuspended the cells with 1 $\times$  Binding Buffer. Adjusted the cell density to 1 $\times$ 10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml,  
274 took 100 $\mu$ L of cell suspension, added 5 $\mu$ L Annexin V-FITC (Solarbio, China) to the tube,  
275 at room temperature, protected from light, mixed gently, 10min, then added 5 $\mu$ L PI, at  
276 room temperature, protected from light, and incubated for 5 min, added PBS to 500 $\mu$ L,  
277 mixed gently, and detected cell apoptosis by flow cytometry within 1 hour.

278 **Western blotting.** Electrophoresis was performed using 10% SDS-PAGE (Solarbio,  
279 China) and transferred to PVDF membrane (Millipore, USA). Next, the membrane was  
280 sealed in 5% skimmed milk powder (BD, USA) for 2h, Antibodies used for

281 immunoblotting in this study were specific to HO-1, bcl-2 (Abcam, USA) and  $\beta$ -actin  
282 protein antibody (Proteintech, USA). Used enhanced chemiluminescence detection  
283 system to detect target protein.

284 **Statistics.** GraphPad 8.0.2 statistical software was used to analyze and graph the  
285 data. The measurement data was expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. The  
286 independent Student's t test was used to compare the differences between the two groups,  
287 analysis of variance compares the differences between two or more groups, A P value  
288  $<0.05$  means significant difference, and a P value  $<0.01$  means extremely significant  
289 difference. Each experiment was repeated 3 times.

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291 No competing financial interests exist.

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#### 296 **Author contributions**

297 Funding acquisition, Wentao Jiang; Investigation, Yuying Tan and Jiali Qiu;  
298 Methodology, Weiqi Zhang, Yan Xie and Jiang Li; Project administration, Wentao Jiang;  
299 Visualization, Chiyi Chen and Junjie Li; Writing – original draft, Yuying Tan, Jiali Qiu  
300 and Weiqi Zhang; Writing – review & editing, Wentao Jiang.

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408

409 **Figure Legends**

410 **Fig 1.** Preparation of BMSCs and optimal concentration for establishing an oxidative  
411 stress model. (A)Flow cytometry detection: The expression of CD79, CD45, CD90, and  
412 CD29 on the surface of BMSCs(Mesenchymal stem cells have high expression of CD90  
413 and CD29, and low expression of CD79 and CD45).(B)IAR-20 Oil Red O Staining: (a)  
414 Normal IAR20 cells are in a small spindle shape, the cytoplasm of liver cells is basically  
415 blue, and no red-stained lipid droplets are seen; (b) Fatty IAR-20 cells have a small  
416 spindle shape, and a large number of red-stained lipid droplets can be seen in the  
417 cytoplasm of liver cells. Original magnification, 100× (C) Cell counting kit-8 assay: Cell  
418 viability after H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> stimulates IAR-20. (\*\**P*<0.01)

419 **Fig 2.** In vitro, effects of BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  on liver function, inflammation  
420 and cell viability of fatty liver cells damaged by oxidative stress. (A) Liver function  
421 indexes of cell culture supernatant: The liver function indexes ALT and AST of the T-IAR  
422 20 group and the B-IAR 20 group were significantly lower than those of the H-IAR 20  
423 group, and there was no significant difference in the ALB levels of each group. (B)  
424 Compared with the H-IAR 20 group, the inflammatory indexes IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , and  
425 INF- $\gamma$  of the cell supernatant of the T-IAR 20 group were significantly reduced, and the  
426 T-IAR 20 group was compared with the B-IAR 20 group the expression level of  
427 inflammatory factors is lower. (C) Cell counting kit-8 assay: Hepatocyte activity of each  
428 experimental group (\**P*<0.05, \*\**P*<0.01, \*\*\**P*<0.001, \*\*\*\**P*<0.0001)

429 **Fig 3.** In vitro, effects of BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  on anti-apoptosis and anti-oxidant  
430 of fatty liver cells damaged by oxidative stress. (A) Hepatocyte apoptosis of each  
431 experimental group. (B) The specific apoptosis rate of hepatocytes in each experimental  
432 group. (C) Western blot of HO-1 and bcl-2 in IAR-20, The expressions of HO-1 and bcl-2  
433 were higher in T-IAR 20 group. (D)The bar graph of western blot result for HO-1 and  
434 bcl-2. (\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ )

435 **Fig 4.** Establishment rat fatty liver and ischemia-reperfusion injury models. (A) Oil Red  
436 O staining of liver tissue of SD rats: (a) SD rats fed with normal maintenance feed. (b)  
437 SD rats were fed with MCD feed for 2 weeks. (B) SD rat fatty liver ischemia-reperfusion  
438 injury before, during and after operation: (a) Before clamping the vascular trunk. (b)  
439 Begin to clamp the vascular trunk. (c) Clamp the vascular trunk for 30 minutes and open  
440 the blood flow.

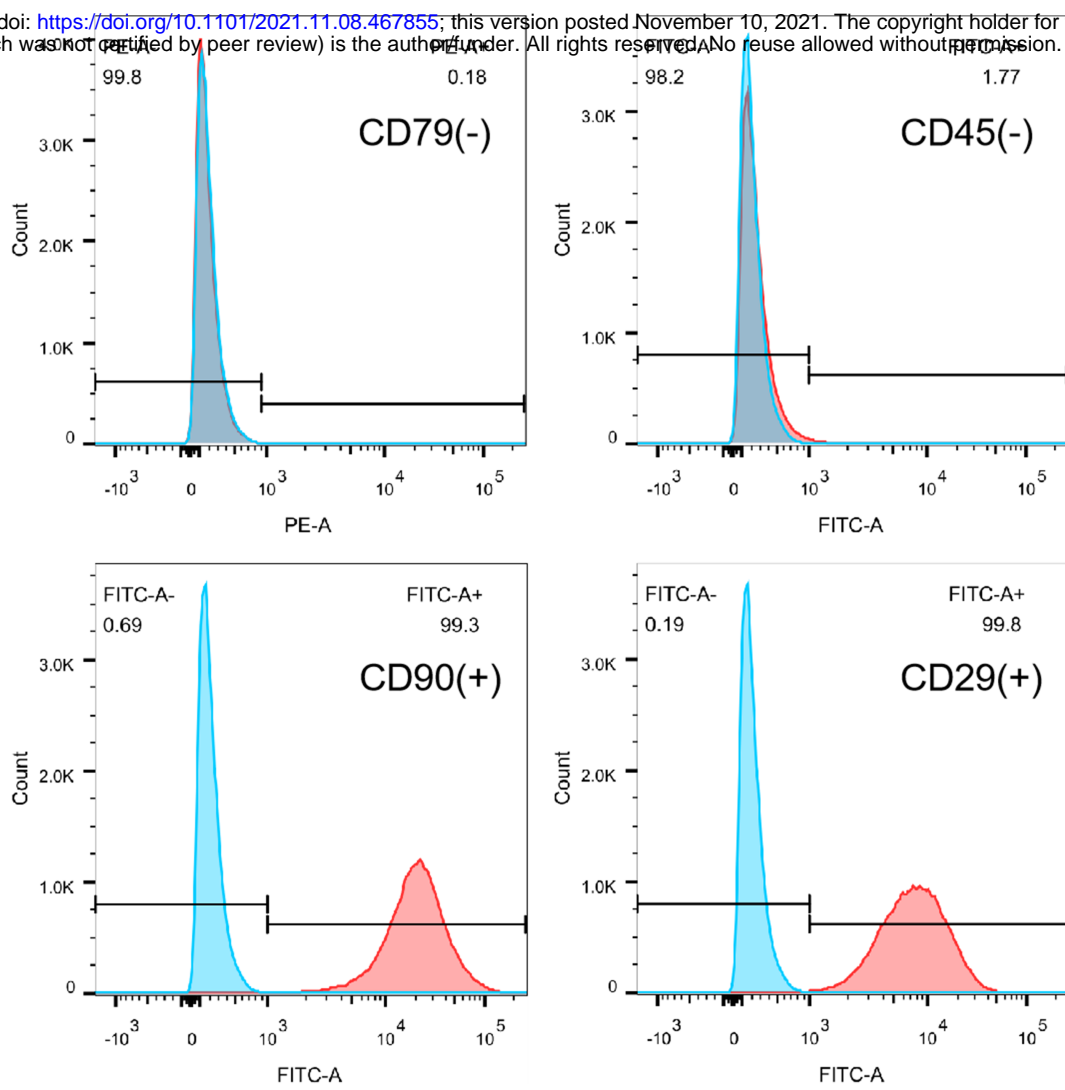
441 **Fig 5.** In vivo, the effects of BMSCs stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  treatment on liver function,  
442 inflammation, anti-oxidation and anti-apoptosis of ischemia-reperfusion injury. (A)  
443 Serum liver function index levels in SD rats of each experimental group: Compared with  
444 the ALT index level of the Sham group, the ALT index of the PBS treatment group was  
445 significantly increased, and the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group was significantly lower  
446 than that of the PBS treatment group; P The TBil index level of the PBS treatment group  
447 was significantly higher than that of the Sham group. After treatment with BMSCs, the  
448 TBil expression level decreased, while the TBil index of the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment

449 group decreased more significantly; There was no significant change in AST expression.  
450 (B) Serum inflammation index levels in SD rats of each group. (C) Western blot of HO-1  
451 and bcl-2 in rat liver tissue, the expression of bcl-2 and HO-1 protein in the PBS group  
452 was significantly lower than that in the Sham group, the expression of bcl-2 and HO-1  
453 protein in the BMSCs treatment group and the BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group was  
454 significantly higher than that of the PBS treatment group. However, the differences in the  
455 expression of their own proteins in the first two groups were not significant. (D) The bar  
456 graph of western blot result for HO-1 and bcl-2. (\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ )  
457 **Fig 6.** The effect of different treatment methods on the liver tissue of IRI and the  
458 retention of BMSCs in the liver of rats. (A) HE staining of liver tissue: (a) In the Sham  
459 group, there was a large number of balloon-like changes and a small amount of  
460 inflammatory cell infiltration, showing the appearance of moderate to severe fatty liver;  
461 (b) In the PBS treatment group, loss of liver structure, hepatic cord disintegration,  
462 hemorrhage, hepatocyte necrosis and disintegration, nuclear pyknosis or even  
463 disappearance, neutrophil infiltration, and a large number of inflammatory cell infiltration;  
464 (c) In the BMSCs treatment group, the boundaries of liver cells were blurred, the  
465 structure of liver lobules was disordered, the hepatic sinusoids were congested, and there  
466 were more inflammatory cell infiltrations. Compared with the PBS group, the  
467 inflammatory response was reduced and cell necrosis was restored; (d) The  
468 BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group showed slight damage to the liver lobule structure, mild

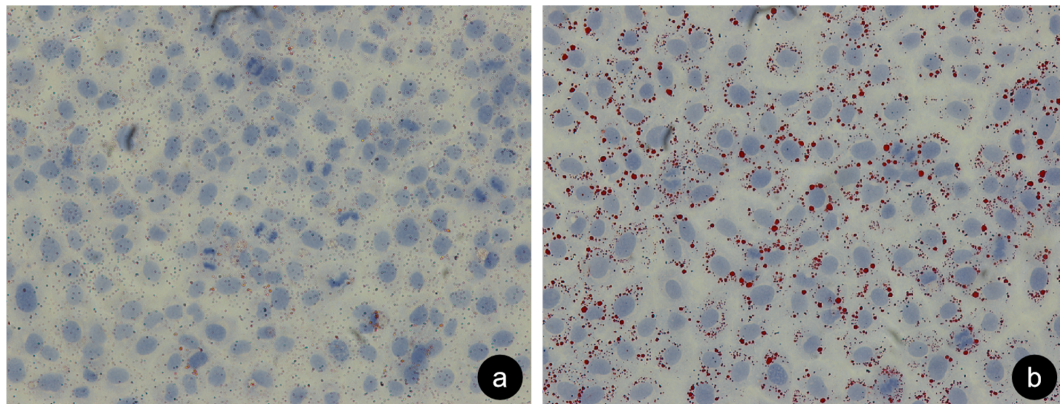


469 local congestion, and inflammatory cell infiltration. The degree of liver cell damage,  
470 congestion, and inflammation were alleviated compared with the PBS treatment group  
471 and the BMSCs treatment group. (B) Fluorescence coloration of BMSCs in liver tissue (a  
472 BMSCs treatment group; b BMSCs/TNF- $\alpha$  treatment group). (C) The number of BMSCs  
473 cells per high-power field of view. Original magnification, 200 $\times$  (\*\* $P < 0.001$ )

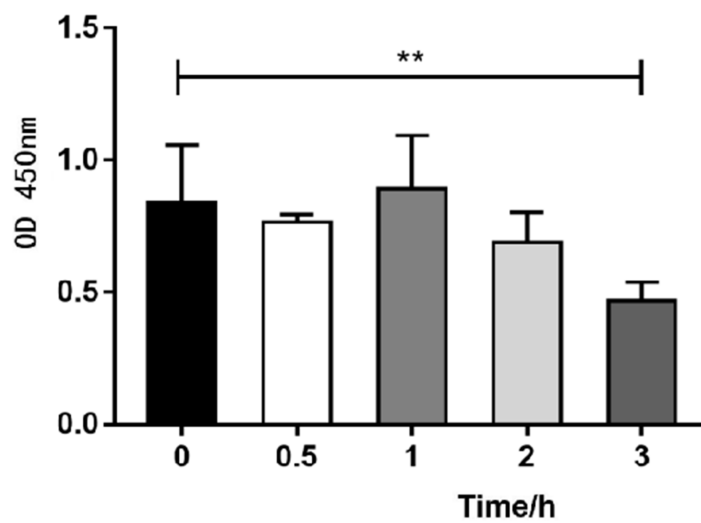
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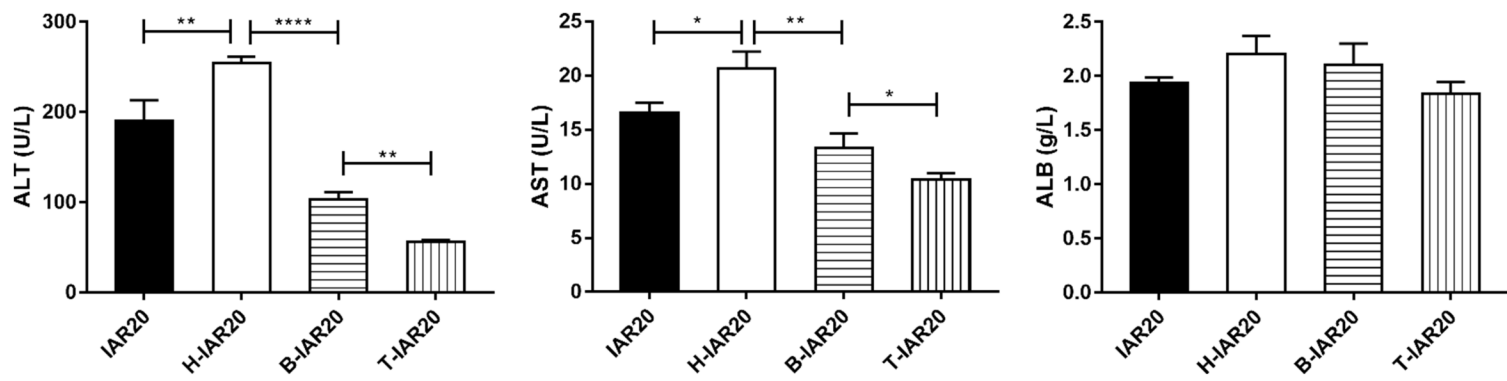
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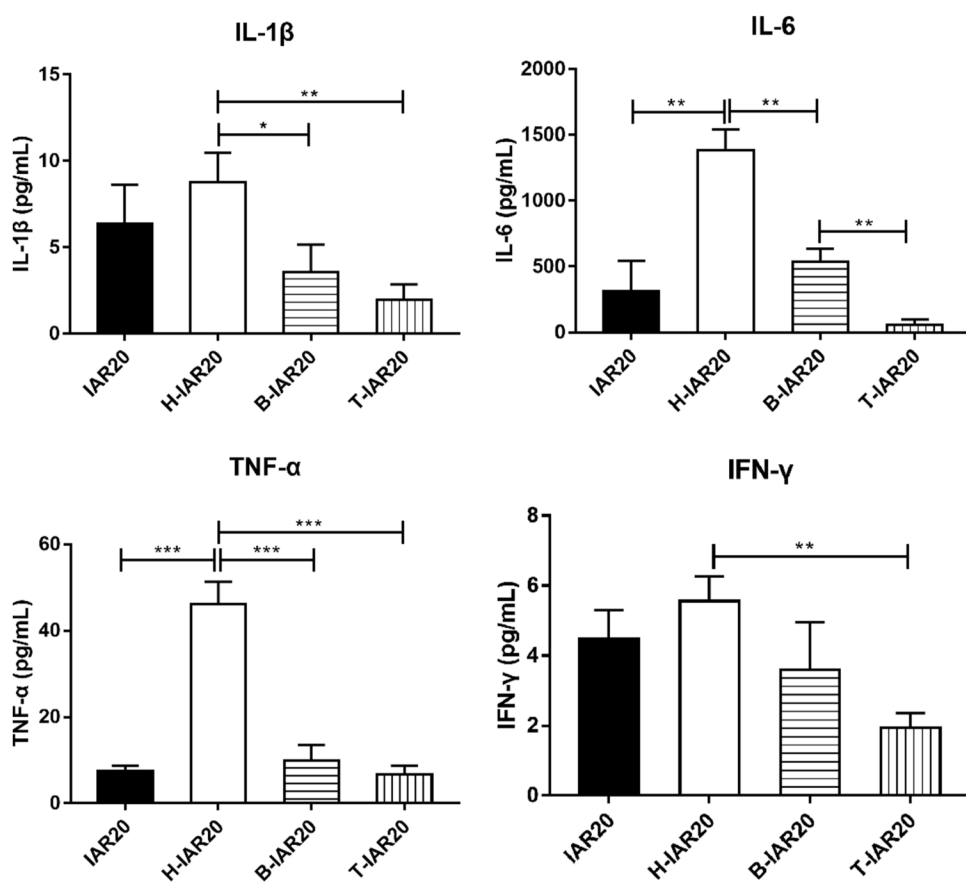
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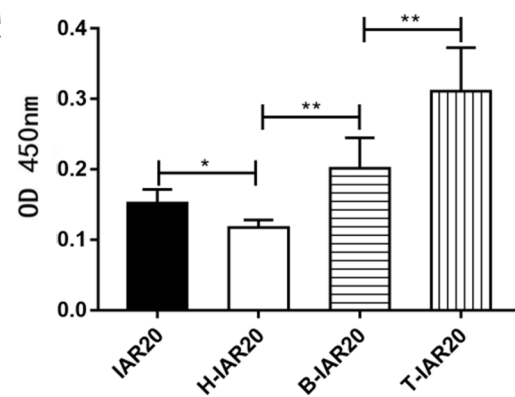
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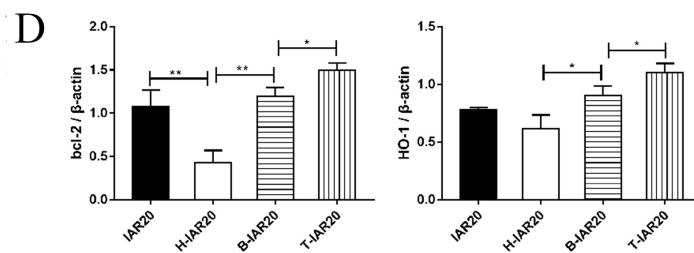
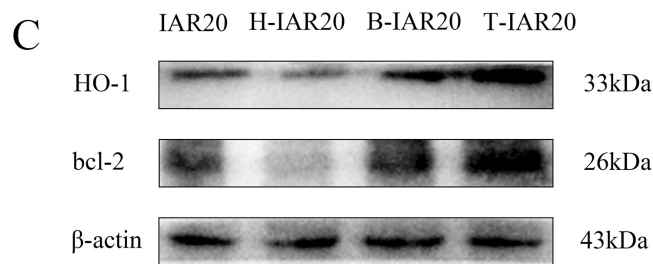
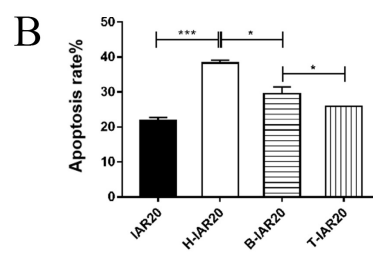
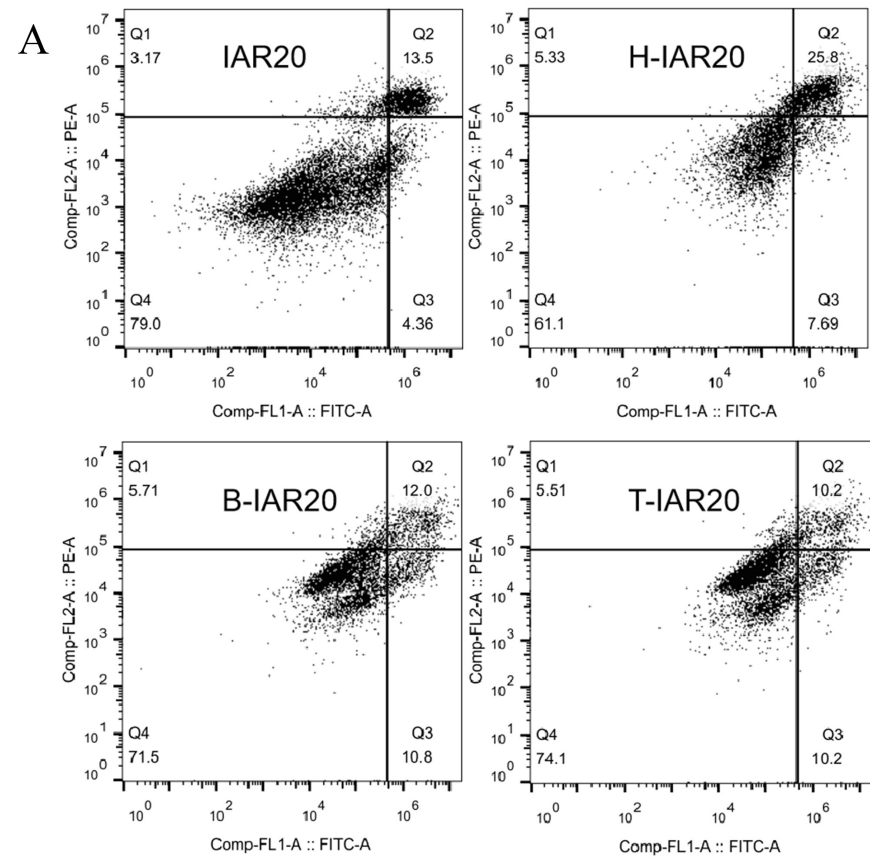


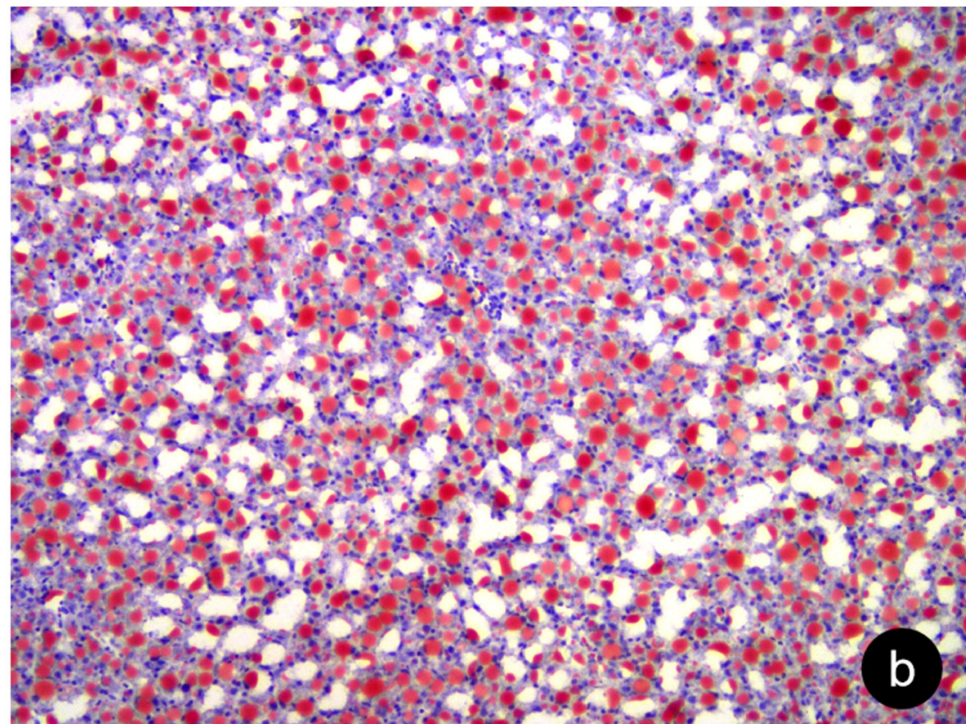
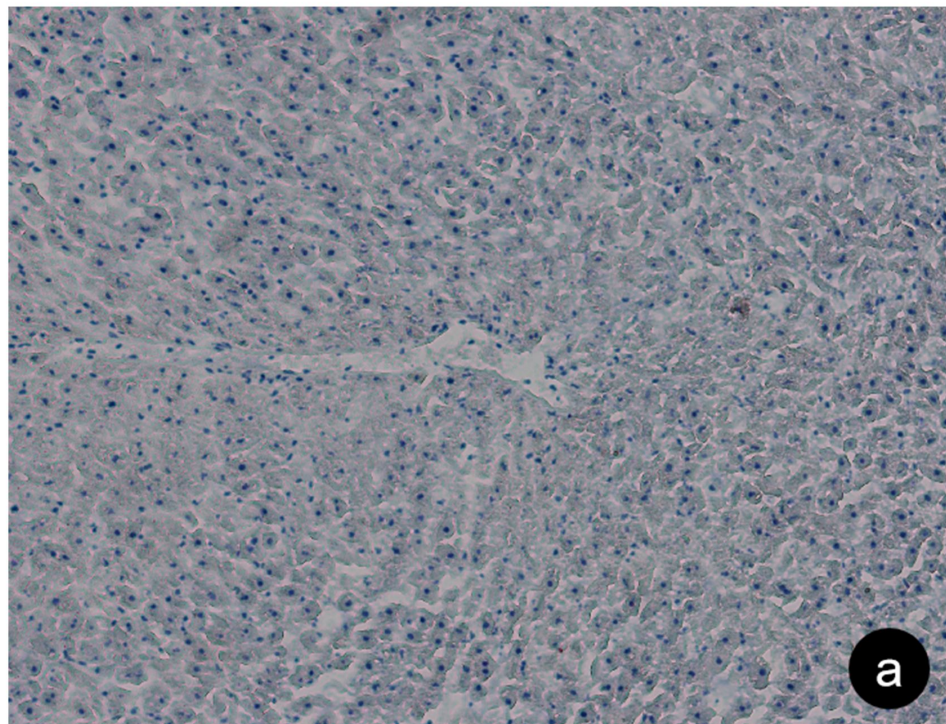
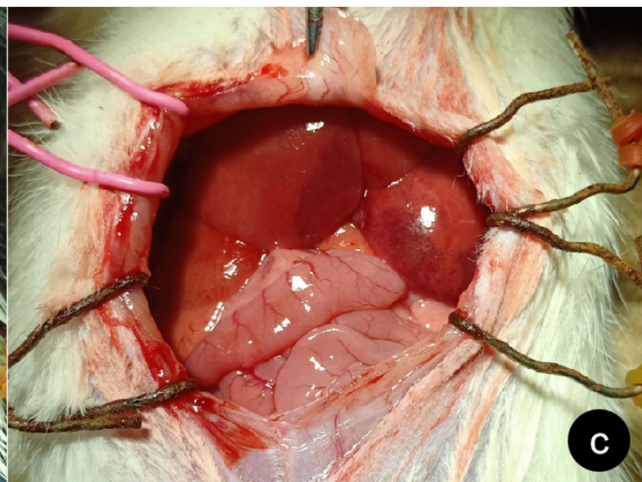
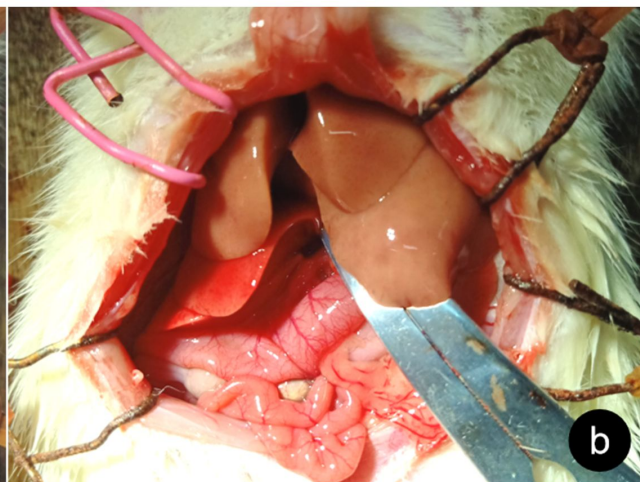
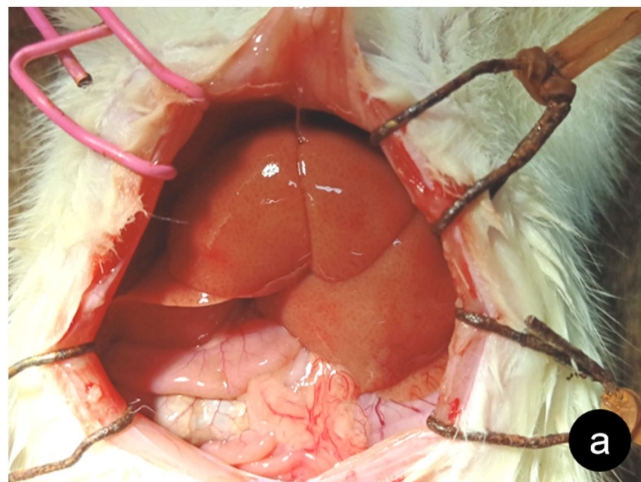
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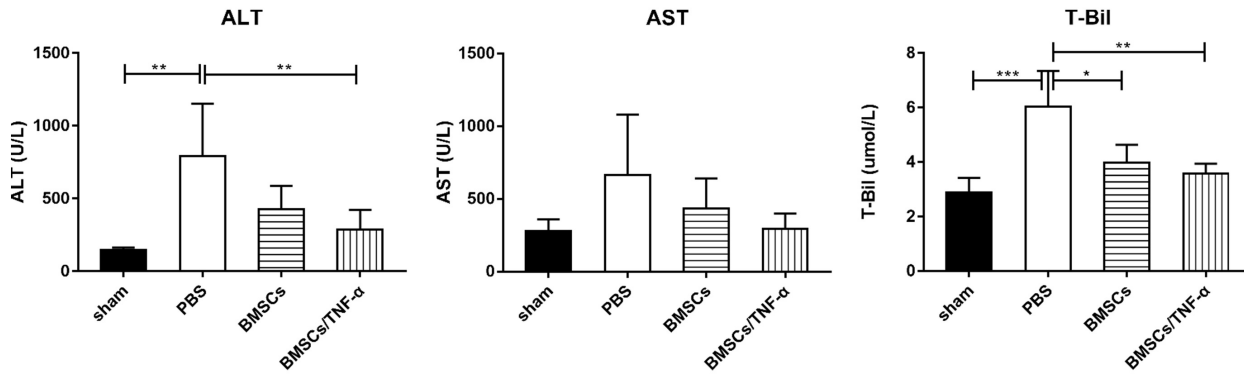
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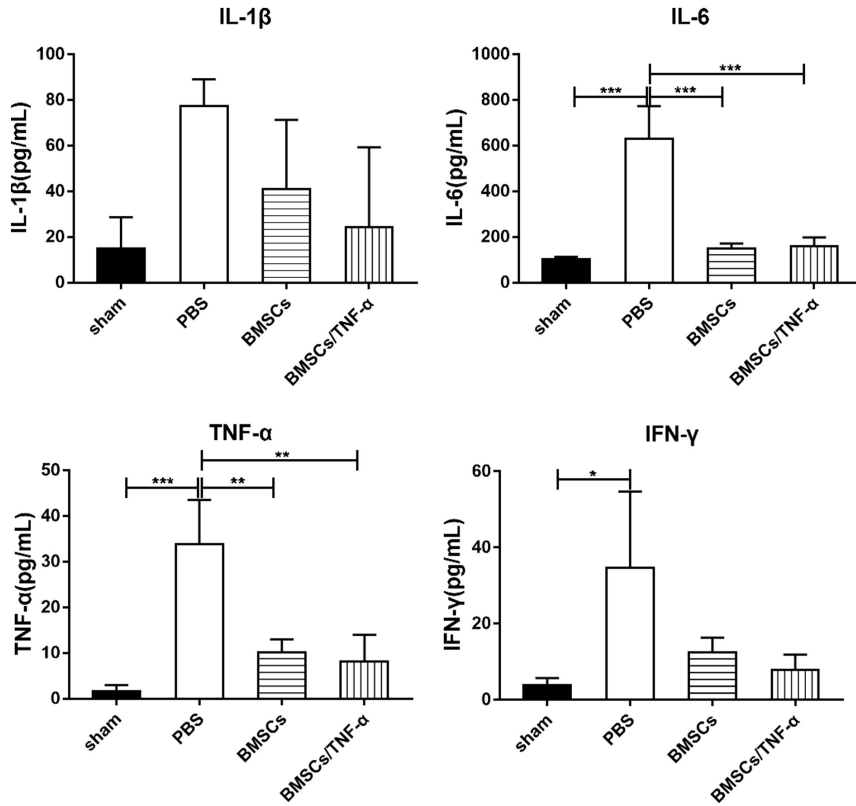


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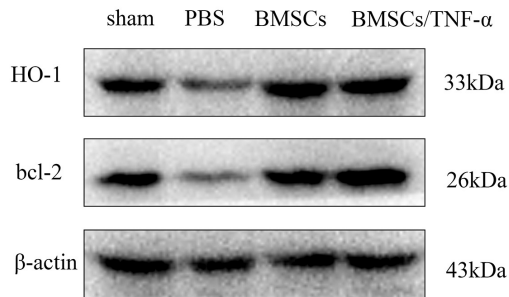
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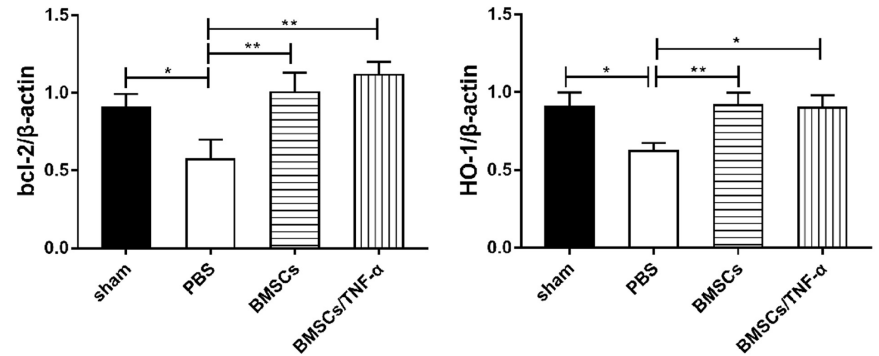
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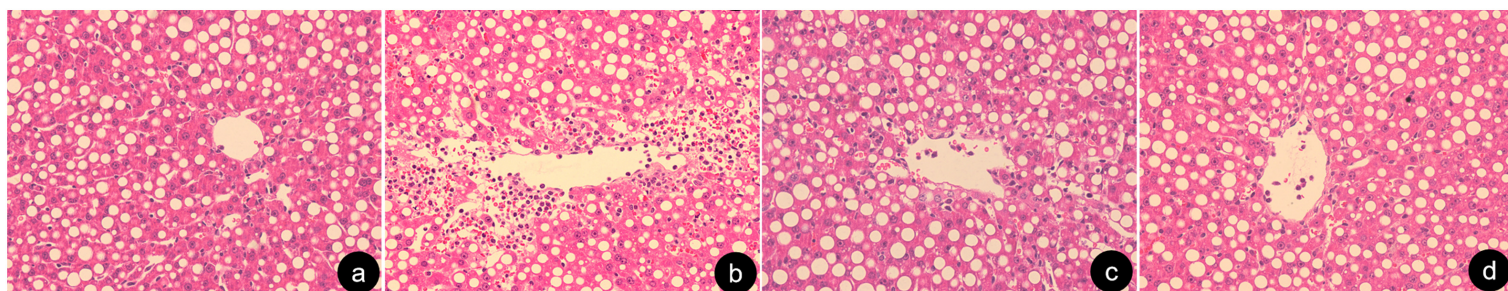
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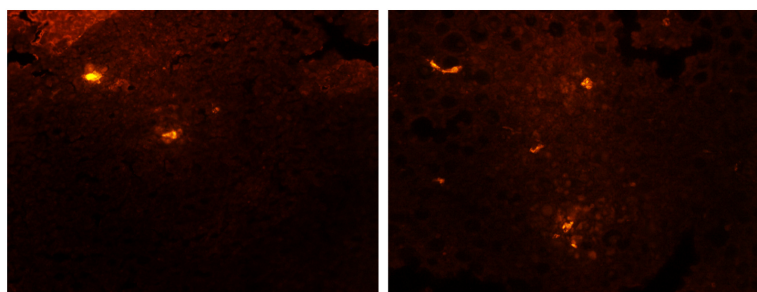
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