

A probiotic *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* isolate from Egyptian cottage cheese alleviates metabolic syndrome manifestations: in vitro and in vivo characterization

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Yehya Abdel-Moniem^{a,b}, Kareem A. Ibrahim^b, Omneya M. Helmy^c, Mona T. Kashef^{c,*}

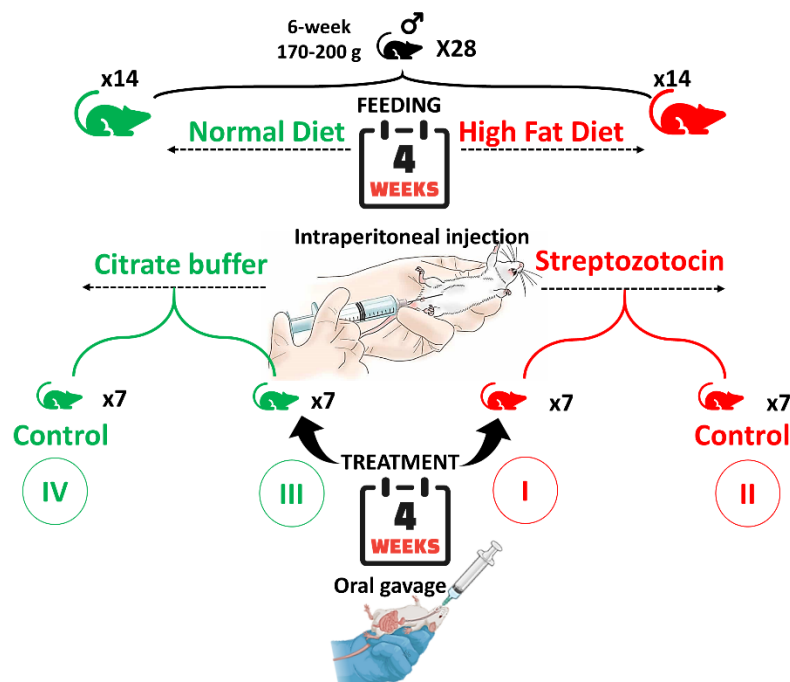
^a Post Graduate Program, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University, Cairo 11562, Egypt

^b Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Egyptian Russian University, Swiss road, Cairo 11829, Egypt

^c Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University, Cairo 11562, Egypt

* Corresponding author: Mona T. Kashef

Email: mona.kashef@pharma.cu.edu.eg



Supplementary Fig. 1 Experimental design showing the dietary and treatment interventions in the different male Wistar rats' groups

Male Wistar rats (n = 28) were divided into two main groups: Normal Diet (ND, n = 14) and High Fat Diet (HFD, n = 14), which were fed their respective diets for 4 weeks. Afterwards, each group was subdivided into two subgroups (n = 7 each): MetS groups (Groups I and II; HFD-fed) and Groups III and IV (ND-fed). The MetS groups were injected with STZ, while the ND-fed groups were injected with citrate buffer. Y_{10b} was administered to group I (HFD-fed MetS group) and group III (ND-fed control group), by oral gavage, for four weeks. The remaining two groups, group II (HFD-fed MetS) and group IV (ND-fed control), received normal saline as a control.