

COLONIC FERMENTATION PROMOTES DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS IN RATS

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6 days before pressurization: **Rats randomization**

Weight

4 hours before pressurization: **Force-feeding**

Weight + H₂ and CO₂ in exhaled air + blood cell counts

1 hour before pressurization

H₂ and CO₂ in exhaled air

Removal from the hyperbaric chamber:

0 min: Weight + Clinical observations

30 min: Blood cell counts + Arterial blood gases

Figure 1: Flow chart describing the experimental design

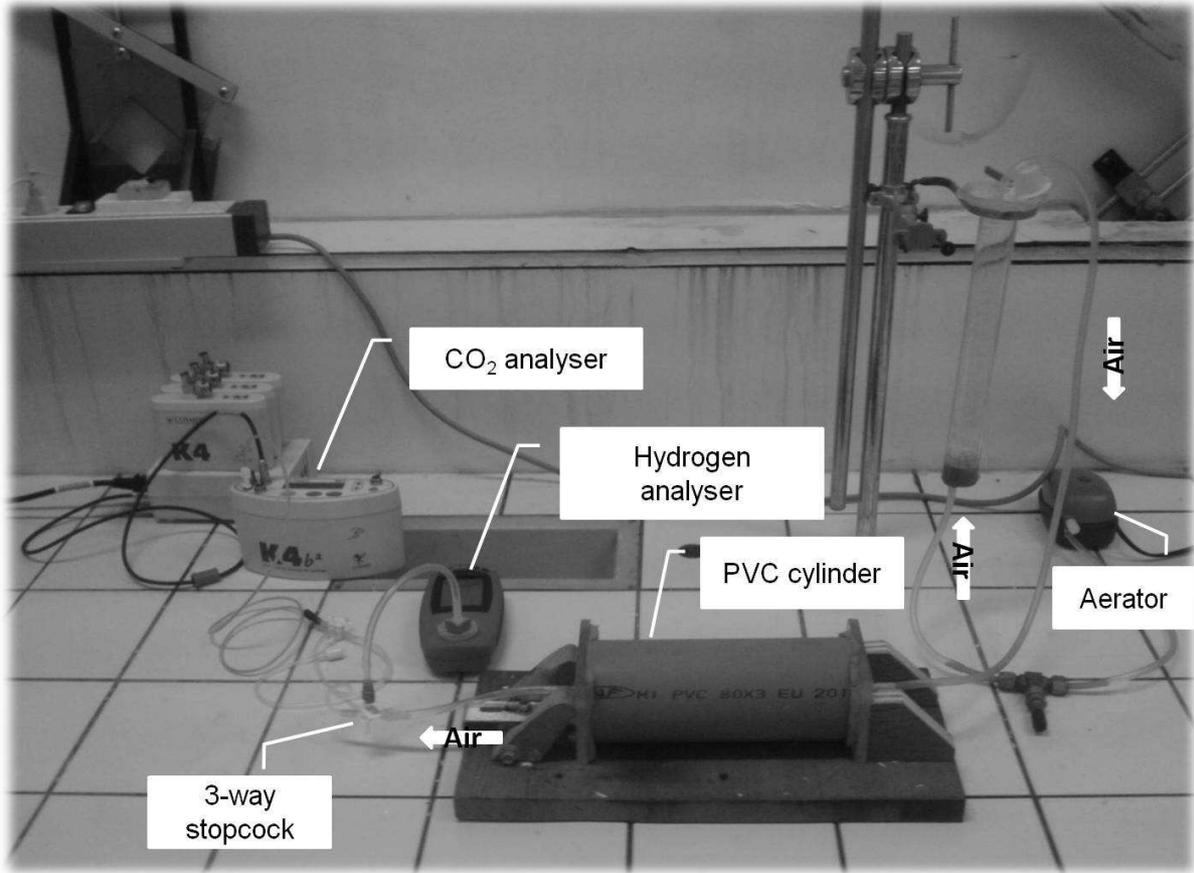


Figure 2: Installation used for the measurement of hydrogen and carbon dioxide in exhaled air in rats.

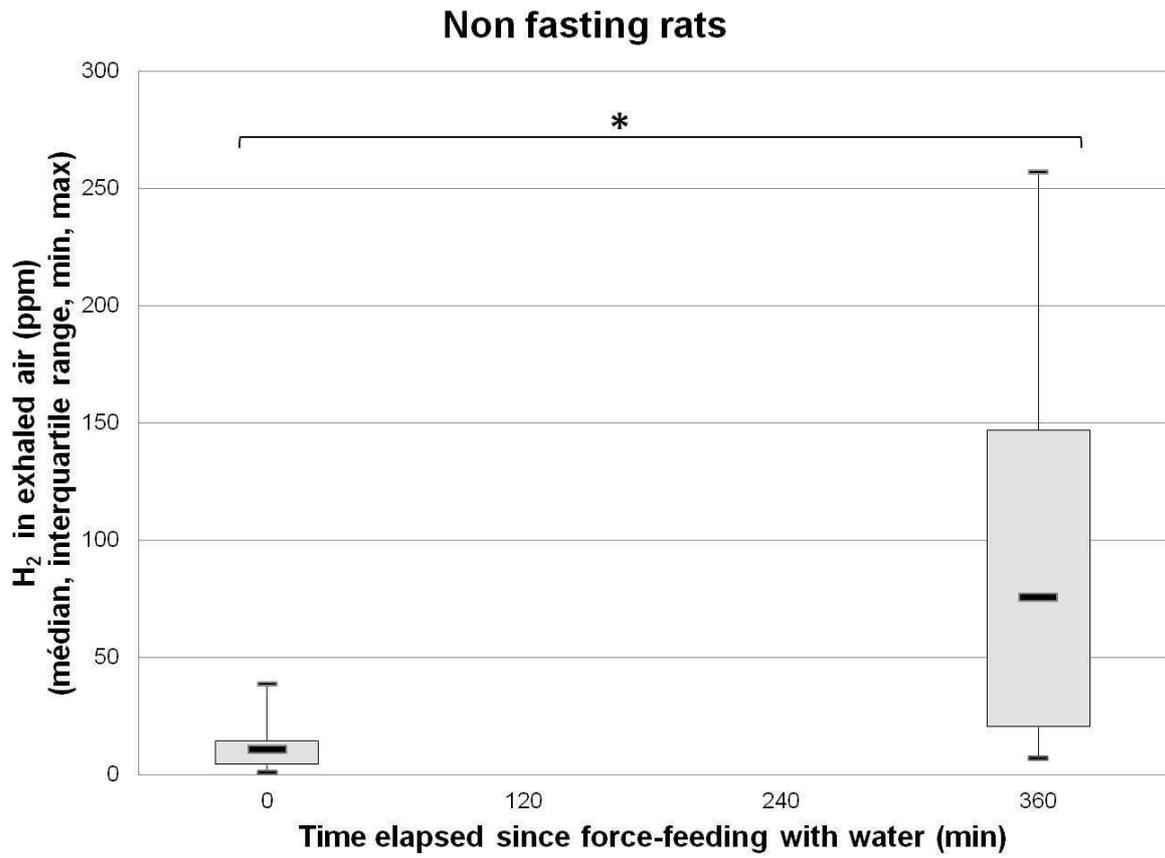


Figure 3 : Hydrogen in exhaled air after force-feeding with 2.5 ml of water in non fasting rats (n=12). *denotes $p < 0.05$ between the paired rats.