



Reverse transcription-quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR). RT-qPCR assays IL-6R and IL-8R expression were performed using a PrimeScript RT reagent kit, SYBR-Green Real-time PCR Master Mix and Permixon Ex Taq (both from Takara, Dalian, China), respectively, according to the manufacturers' instructions. The parameters for PCR were as follows: Incubation of the templates at 94°C for 2 min, followed by 40 cycles of 94°C for 20 sec, 60°C for 1 min and 72°C for 20 sec, and finally incubation at 72°C for 2 min. We used GAPDH as the housekeeping genes for calculating the relative expression of IL-8R and IL-6R mRNA, respectively. The primers used were as follows: IL-6R forward, 5'-ATGCTGGCCGTCGGCTGC-3' and reverse, 5'-TCAGAGCCCGCAGCTTCC-3'; IL-8R forward, 5'-ATGGAAGATTTAACATGGAGAGTGAC-3' and reverse, 5'-TTAGAGAGTAGTGAAGTGTGCC-3'; GAPDH forward, 5'-CGGAGTCAACGGATTTGGTCGTAT-3' and reverse, 5'-AGCCTTCTCCATGGTGGTGAAGAC-3'. The 2- $\Delta\Delta Cq$ method was used to evaluate the relative expression levels of the indicated genes.