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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

A sensitive method determination of the gender difference of neuroactive metabolites in tryptophan and dopamine pathways in the mouse serum and brain by UHPLC-MS/MS

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#### **Abstract**

Tryptophan (TRP) and dopamine (DA) pathways are of great importance for their related pathology and physiology. In the present study, a new reliable and sensitive analytical method was developed and validated for 12 neuroactive metabolites in TRP and DA pathways in mouse serum and brain by ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (UHPLC–MS/MS). The method exhibited good sensitivity as the lower limit of detections ranged from 0.10 to 0.50 ng/ml and the lower limit of quantifications

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jiaxi Yao and Haihua Lu contributed equally to this work.

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