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Title: Exposure to low level of lead during preweaning period increases metallothionein-3 expression and dysregulates divalent cation levels in the brain of young rats

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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Exposure to low level of lead during preweaning period increases metallothionein-3 expression and dysregulates divalent cation levels in the brain of young rats

Running Title: Lead and Metallothioneine-3

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#### **Highlights:**

- This is the first study reporting the increased expression of the brain-specific MT-3 in the brain of young rats exposed to low levels of lead (Pb) during the preweaning period.
- Pb exposure significantly increased the level of Pb in blood and cerebrum at postnatal day (PND) 21 and at PND30.

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