

1 **Laboratory evaluation of the regeneration time, efficacy and wash-resistance**
2 **of PermaNet® Dual (a deltamethrin-chlorfenapyr net) against susceptible and**
3 **pyrethroid-resistant strains of *Anopheles gambiae***

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16 *bioassays, tunnel tests*

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24 **Abstract**

25 Pyrethroid-chlorfenapyr nets have been recommended for malaria control by the World Health
26 Organisation (WHO) after an alpha-cypermethrin-chlorfenapyr net showed improved impact in
27 epidemiological trials. PermaNet® Dual is a new deltamethrin-chlorfenapyr net developed by
28 Vestergaard Sàrl to expand options to control programmes. We performed a series of laboratory
29 studies according to WHO guidelines to assess the regeneration time, efficacy and wash-resistance of
30 PermaNet® Dual. Regeneration time was determined by subjecting net pieces to cone bioassays and
31 tunnel tests before and 0, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 days after washing. The wash-resistance of PermaNet® Dual
32 was evaluated compared to WHO-prequalified pyrethroid-only (PermaNet® 2.0) and pyrethroid-
33 chlorfenapyr (Interceptor® G2) nets by testing net pieces washed 0, 1, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 times in cone
34 bioassays and tunnel tests. Tests were performed with susceptible and pyrethroid-resistant strains of
35 *Anopheles gambiae* to separately assess the pyrethroid and chlorfenapyr components. Net pieces
36 were also analysed to determine insecticide content. In regeneration time studies, the biological
37 activity of the deltamethrin and chlorfenapyr components of PermaNet® Dual regenerated within 1
38 day after washing and a 1-day washing interval was adopted for wash-resistance studies. PermaNet®
39 Dual induced high mortality (98%) and blood-feeding inhibition (98%) of the susceptible strain after
40 20 washes fulfilling WHO efficacy criteria in tunnel tests ($\geq 80\%$ mortality, $\geq 90\%$ blood-feeding
41 inhibition). Similar results were obtained with PermaNet® 2.0 (99% mortality, 99% blood-feeding
42 inhibition) and Interceptor® G2 (99% mortality, 98% blood-feeding inhibition) washed 20 times. In
43 wash-resistance tunnel tests against the pyrethroid-resistant strain, PermaNet® Dual washed 20 times
44 induced high mortality (91%) and blood-feeding inhibition (73%) which was similar to Interceptor® G2
45 (87% mortality, 79% blood-feeding inhibition) and superior to PermaNet® 2.0 (47% mortality, 68%
46 blood-feeding inhibition). PermaNet® Dual fulfilled WHO efficacy criteria in laboratory bioassays and
47 showed potential to improve control of pyrethroid-resistant malaria vectors.

48

49 **Background**

50 The large-scale roll-out of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) has been credited with most of the declines
51 in malaria observed in sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades (1). The public health value of
52 ITNs is, in large part, attributable to the insecticide in the netting fibre, which kills or repels host-
53 seeking vector mosquitoes providing protection against malaria for the user and the wider
54 community. Pyrethroids have been the insecticide of choice on ITNs because they are highly effective,
55 cheap, safe, and fast-acting (2). Overreliance on pyrethroids has however, selected for pyrethroid
56 resistance in malaria vectors which is now pervasive throughout sub-Saharan Africa (3). Although the
57 extent to which pyrethroid resistance is currently impacting the effectiveness of ITNs is unclear (4),
58 malaria control progress has slowed on a global scale in recent years and in many high-burden
59 countries downward trends in cases and deaths have reversed (5). Concern that pyrethroid resistance
60 is contributing to stalling malaria control progress has stimulated substantial investment in
61 development of new active ingredients (AIs) for use on ITNs.

62 Over the past decade, three types of ITN combining a pyrethroid with a second compound capable of
63 improving control of pyrethroid-resistant malaria vectors have become available. The most promising
64 next-generation ITN developed thus far are nets treated with the pyrrole insecticide chlorfenapyr
65 (CFP). CFP is a new insecticide to vector control which induces mortality by uncoupling oxidative
66 phosphorylation in the insect mitochondria (6). Because of its unique non-neurotoxic mode of action,
67 CFP exhibits no cross-resistance with conventional neurotoxic insecticides and is hence a suitable AI
68 to complement pyrethroids on ITNs (7). In laboratory and experimental hut studies, an alpha-
69 cypermethrin-CFP net (Interceptor® G) improved mortality rates of pyrethroid-resistant malaria
70 vectors to levels resembling that achieved with pyrethroid-only ITNs in areas of susceptibility (8-12).
71 In subsequent epidemiological cluster-randomised controlled trials (cRCTs) in Benin (13) and Tanzania
72 (14), Interceptor® G2 reduced child malaria incidence by 46% and 44% respectively over 2 years
73 compared to pyrethroid-only ITNs and was found to be highly cost-effective. Based on the increasing

74 body of evidence demonstrating the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of pyrethroid-CFP ITNs,
75 WHO has issued a strong recommendation for the distribution of pyrethroid-CFP ITNs over pyrethroid-
76 only ITNs in areas of pyrethroid resistance (15). This is driving an increased demand for pyrethroid-
77 CFP ITNs which are projected to comprise 80% of the African market by 2031 (16).

78 PermaNet® Dual is a new deltamethrin-CFP ITN developed by Vestergaard Sàrl that was recently
79 added to the WHO list of prequalified vector control products (17) becoming available for large-scale
80 deployment for vector control in endemic countries. To be prequalified by WHO, new ITNs are
81 assessed for their safety, quality and entomological efficacy by the Prequalification Unit Vector
82 Product Assessment Team (PQT/VCP). This includes laboratory studies demonstrating the efficacy and
83 wash-resistance of the candidate ITN and the dynamics of the AI(s) in the netting fibre including the
84 regeneration time (18, 19). In laboratory and experimental hut studies, the natural loss of insecticide
85 under user conditions is simulated by washing. When the surface insecticide of a net is depleted after
86 washing, it takes time for the reservoir insecticide in the netting fibre to migrate to the surface and
87 restore full biological efficacy (20). The time taken for this to occur is the regeneration time which is
88 used as the time interval between successive washes for wash-resistance studies. Adopting a wash-
89 interval which allows full regeneration of insecticide at the net surface between washes is crucial to
90 avoid generating biased results. If the regeneration time is too short for example, ITN durability may
91 be overestimated because nets are washed before the insecticide has fully regenerated at the surface
92 (21). Wash-resistance meanwhile is a critical predictor of the durability of an ITN as it indicates its
93 ability to withstand washing and remain effective over several years of field use. It is assessed by
94 subjecting nets to laboratory bioassays for up to 20 standardised washes which simulates insecticidal
95 loss over 3 years under user conditions assuming nets are washed once every few months (19). Wash-
96 resistance and regeneration time can be assessed entomologically in laboratory bioassays and
97 chemically by measuring surface insecticide concentration on a net using reliable analytical methods.

98 We performed a laboratory study to evaluate the regeneration time, efficacy and wash-resistance of
99 PermaNet® Dual following current WHO guidelines (19). The regeneration time of PermaNet® Dual
100 was firstly assessed by subjecting net pieces to cone bioassays and tunnel tests unwashed and on
101 successive days after washing. The wash-resistance of PermaNet® Dual compared to a WHO-
102 prequalified pyrethroid-only ITN (PermaNet® 2.0) and pyrethroid-CFP ITN (Interceptor® G2) was
103 subsequently evaluated by testing net pieces unwashed and after 1, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 washes in cone
104 bioassays and tunnel tests. Regeneration time and wash-resistance studies were performed with
105 susceptible and pyrethroid-resistant strains of *Anopheles gambiae* to separately assess the pyrethroid
106 and CFP components of the ITNs. Net pieces were also analysed to determine within- and between-
107 net variation and wash-resistance indexes of AI content. Following WHO PQT/VCP data requirements,
108 the trial was performed in line with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
109 (OECD) principles of good laboratory practice (GLP) at the CREC/LSHTM GLP-certified facility in Benin.
110 This study predated the recently developed WHO guidelines for prequalification of ITNs (18) and was
111 thus performed in accordance with the applicable guidelines for laboratory and field testing of ITNs
112 previously published by WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) (19). It was among the studies
113 included in the WHO PQT/VCP prequalification assessment of PermaNet® Dual (22).

114 **Materials and methods**

115 **Mosquito strain characterisation**

116 Laboratory bioassays were performed with susceptible and pyrethroid-resistant strains of *An.*
117 *gambiae* s.l. to separately assess the regeneration time and wash-resistance of the pyrethroid and CFP
118 components of the ITNs. The rationale for this approach was two-fold. First, because pyrethroid-
119 resistant mosquitoes were mostly expected to survive exposure to the pyrethroid, they could be used
120 to quantify the effects of CFP. Second, because CFP is a slower-acting insecticide than pyrethroids
121 taking up to 72 h to exert full toxicity, the mortality response of the susceptible strain after 24 h could
122 be used to dissociate the effects of the pyrethroid from CFP and attribute activity to either compound.

123 The species composition and resistance profiles of the susceptible and pyrethroid-resistant strains
124 used for the study are described below.

- 125 • *An. gambiae* sensu stricto (s.s.) Kisumu strain is an insecticide-susceptible reference strain
126 originated from Kisumu, western Kenya.
- 127 • *An. gambiae* sensu lato (s.l.) Covè strain is an insecticide-resistant field strain which are F1 progeny
128 of mosquitoes collected from CREC/LSHTM field station in Covè, southern Benin. Prior studies
129 show that the strain exhibits a high frequency of resistance to pyrethroids and organochlorines
130 but remains susceptible to other insecticide classes including CFP. Resistance is mediated by the
131 knockdown resistance (*kdr*) L1014F mutation and overexpression of P450 enzymes, notably
132 CYP6P3 (23).

133 **Susceptibility bioassays**

134 The resistance status of mosquito strains can vary over time due to contamination events and/or
135 changes in rearing conditions (24). We therefore performed susceptibility bioassays prior to the study
136 to verify the resistance status of the *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu and *An. gambiae* s.l. Covè strains to the
137 AIs in the ITNs. Approximately 100 mosquitoes of each strain were exposed to filter papers
138 impregnated with the discriminating concentrations of alpha-cypermethrin (0.05%) and deltamethrin
139 (0.05%) and bottles coated with the discriminating concentration of CFP (100 µg) for 60 mins in four
140 cohorts of 20–25. Similar numbers of mosquitoes were concurrently exposed to silicone oil-
141 impregnated papers and acetone-coated bottles as negative controls. After exposure, mosquitoes
142 were transferred to untreated containers and provided access to 10% (w/v) glucose solution. Delayed
143 mortality was then recorded after 24 h for alpha-cypermethrin and deltamethrin and every 24 h up to
144 72 h after exposure for CFP. Tests were performed at 27±2°C and 75±10% relative humidity (RH).

145 **Net treatments and preparation of net pieces for bioassays and chemical analysis**

146 We compared the efficacy and wash-resistance of the candidate ITN (PermaNet® Dual) to two other
147 WHO-prequalified ITNs; a pyrethroid-only net (PermaNet® 2.0) and another pyrethroid-CFP net
148 (Interceptor® G2). The technical specifications of the ITNs are described below.

- 149 • PermaNet® Dual (Vestergaard Sàrl) is a 100-denier, polyester ITN coated with a combination of
150 deltamethrin and CFP at 2.1 g/kg and 5 g/kg respectively.
- 151 • PermaNet® 2.0 (Vestergaard Sàrl) is a 100-denier, polyester ITN coated with deltamethrin at 1.4
152 g/kg.
- 153 • Interceptor® G2 (BASF) is a 100-denier, polyester ITN coated with a combination of alpha-
154 cypermethrin and CFP at 2.4 g/kg and 4.8 g/kg respectively.
- 155 • An untreated net developed to a similar technical specification to PermaNet® Dual was used as a
156 negative control.

157 A total of four whole PermaNet® Dual, two PermaNet® 2.0, two Interceptor® G2 nets and one
158 untreated control net were randomly selected to obtain net pieces for the laboratory bioassays and
159 chemical analysis. The PermaNet Dual® nets were selected from three different production batches.
160 Two sets of 14 net pieces measuring 25 x 25 cm were cut from each of the selected nets at WHO-
161 recommended positions (19) (Figure 1). Five (5) net pieces from each of the PermaNet® Dual nets
162 were set aside in a refrigerator at 4 °C for chemical analysis to determine within- and between-net
163 variation in AI content. The remaining net pieces of all ITN types were then randomly assigned to study
164 type (regeneration time, wash-resistance) and wash-point using sealed opaque envelopes. All net
165 pieces were subsequently labelled, wrapped in aluminium foil and stored in an incubator at 30 °C
166 before and between washes and testing. Net pieces were washed according to WHO guidelines (2) to
167 deplete the surface availability of insecticide for both regeneration time and wash-resistance studies.
168 To summarise, net pieces were placed in a 1 litre bottle containing standardised soap solution (Savon
169 de Marseille dissolved in deionised water at 2 g/l) and washed for 10 mins in a shaker bath set at 155

170 movements per minute and 30 °C. Net pieces were then rinsed twice in clean deionised water under
171 the same conditions. Following completion of the bioassays, all unwashed and washed net pieces used
172 in regeneration time and wash-resistance studies were transferred to a refrigerator for storage at 4 °C
173 before being sent for chemical analysis to determine the wash-resistance index of their respective AIs.

174

175 **Figure 1:** Sampling scheme for cutting 14 net pieces from whole nets for bioassays and chemical
176 analysis. Source: World Health Organisation, 2013 (19).

177 **Laboratory bioassays**

178 The regeneration time, efficacy and wash-resistance of PermaNet® Dual was assessed by performing
179 WHO cone bioassays and tunnel tests on unwashed and washed net pieces against susceptible and
180 pyrethroid-resistant mosquito strains under controlled laboratory conditions.

181 **Cone bioassays**

182 The cone bioassay test design consists of plastic cones fixed to a frame containing a net piece.
183 Mosquitoes aged 3–5 days were aspirated into the cones in cohorts of approximately 5 and exposed
184 to the net piece for 3 mins. At the end of exposure, the mosquitoes were transferred to labelled
185 holding cups and provided access to a cotton bud soaked in 10% (w/v) glucose solution. Knockdown
186 was recorded 60 mins after exposure and delayed mortality every 24 h up to 72 h. Mosquitoes were
187 concurrently exposed to untreated net pieces as a negative control. Tests were performed at $27\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$
188 and $75\pm 10\%$ RH.

189 **Tunnel tests**

190 Cone bioassays have been reported to underestimate the efficacy of nets treated with highly
191 excitorepellent insecticides or AIs like CFP whose toxicity relies on the metabolic activity of the target
192 insect (25). For this reason, ITNs failing to fulfil efficacy criteria in cone bioassays are subjected to
193 tunnel tests in line with existing WHO guidelines (19). Tunnel tests are a type of experimental chamber

194 which simulate the natural behavioural interactions that occur between free-flying mosquitoes and
195 nets during host-seeking. The test design consists of a square glass tunnel divided at one third its
196 length by a wooden frame fitted with a net piece which has been given 9 x 1 cm holes to facilitate
197 entry in the baited chamber. In the short section of the tunnel, a guinea pig bait was held in an open-
198 meshed cage while in the long section, approximately 100 mosquitoes aged 5–8 days were released
199 at dusk and left overnight. In the morning, all mosquitoes were collected from the different sections
200 of the tunnel and scored for immediate mortality and blood-feeding. Surviving mosquitoes were
201 transferred to labelled holding cups and provided access to a cotton bud soaked in 10% (w/v) glucose
202 solution after which delayed mortality was recorded every 24 h up to 72 h after exposure. Parallel
203 exposures were performed with untreated net pieces as a negative control. Tests were performed at
204 $27\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $75\pm 10\%$ RH.

205 **Preliminary assessment of test method and strain suitability**

206 Despite high levels of pyrethroid resistance, laboratory-reared mosquito strains may not survive
207 exposure to the pyrethroid component of nets in sufficient numbers to allow for assessment of the
208 effects of the CFP component. Furthermore, previous studies have demonstrated the unsuitability of
209 cone bioassays to assess the efficacy of CFP on ITNs (25). Hence, to validate our rationale and inform
210 selection of the most appropriate methodology for regeneration time and wash-resistance studies,
211 we performed a series of preliminary bioassays to compare the suitability of different test methods
212 and mosquito strains for capturing the biological effects of the deltamethrin and CFP components of
213 PermaNet® Dual. Mosquitoes of the susceptible *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu strain and pyrethroid-
214 resistant *An. gambiae* s.l. Covè strain were exposed to new, unwashed net pieces of PermaNet® Dual,
215 Interceptor® G2 and PermaNet® 2.0 in cone bioassays and tunnel tests. For cone bioassays,
216 approximately 50 mosquitoes were exposed for 3 mins to each of four net pieces in ten cohorts of 4–6
217 while for tunnel tests, approximately 100 mosquitoes were exposed to each of two net pieces in one
218 replicate tunnel. A total of approximately 200 mosquitoes per strain were thus exposed to each ITN

219 type with both test methods. Parallel exposures were performed with untreated net pieces as a
220 negative control.

221 **Regeneration time studies**

222 Determining an accurate regeneration time is crucial for ITN evaluation as it defines the wash interval
223 used for wash-resistance studies. To assess the regeneration time of PermaNet® Dual, we initially
224 tested four net pieces unwashed in cone bioassays against the susceptible *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu
225 strain and in tunnel tests against the pyrethroid-resistant *An. gambiae* s.l. Covè strain. The net pieces
226 were then washed three consecutive times in the same day using a shaker bath as previously described
227 and tested again in cone bioassays and tunnel tests against both strains 0, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 days after
228 washing (Figure 2). On each day of testing, approximately 50 mosquitoes were exposed to each of four
229 PermaNet® Dual pieces in ten cohorts of 4–6 in cone bioassays, while approximately 100 mosquitoes
230 were exposed to each of two net PermaNet® Dual net pieces in one replicate tunnel test. A total of
231 200 mosquitoes were thus exposed to PermaNet® Dual pieces per time-point with both methods. The
232 regeneration time was considered the time in days to reach a plateau in the biological efficacy after
233 washing. Regeneration of the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual was assessed based on
234 knockdown after 60 mins and mortality after 24 h of the susceptible Kisumu strain in cone bioassays
235 while regeneration of the CFP component was assessed based on mortality after 72 h of the
236 pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain in tunnel tests.

237

238 **Figure 2:** Testing scheme for regeneration time studies.

239 **Wash-resistance studies**

240 In laboratory studies, a candidate ITN is expected to retain its biological efficacy after 20 standardised
241 washes to fulfil WHO efficacy criteria (19). To assess the wash-resistance of PermaNet® Dual, we
242 tested net pieces unwashed and washed up to 20 times in laboratory bioassays against susceptible

243 and pyrethroid-resistant mosquito strains. Comparison was made to a WHO-prequalified pyrethroid-
244 only ITN (PermaNet® 2.0) and pyrethroid-CFP ITN (Interceptor® G2) as positive controls. A total of four
245 net pieces of each ITN type were washed in a shaker bath either 0, 1, 3, 5, 10, 15 or 20 times at intervals
246 corresponding to the regeneration time as previously described. Net pieces were then tested in cone
247 bioassays against the susceptible *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu strain and tunnel tests against the
248 pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain to assess the wash-resistance of the deltamethrin and CFP
249 components of PermaNet® Dual respectively. PermaNet® Dual initially failed to achieve WHO efficacy
250 criteria in cone bioassays thus tunnel tests were also performed with the Kisumu strain to better assess
251 the wash-resistance of its deltamethrin component. For cone bioassays, a total of approximately 50
252 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the four net pieces prepared per wash-point for 3 mins in ten
253 cohorts of 5. Meanwhile for tunnel tests, approximately 100 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the
254 two net pieces which were randomly selected from the cohort of four pieces washed 0, 10 and 20
255 times. A total of 200 mosquitoes were thus exposed per ITN and wash-point with both test methods.
256 Efficacy criteria described in WHOPES guidelines were used as a benchmark to interpret the wash-
257 resistance of PermaNet® Dual. Hence, PermaNet® Dual was considered to have retained its biological
258 efficacy after 20 washes if it induced: $\geq 95\%$ knockdown or $\geq 80\%$ mortality in cone bioassays, or $\geq 80\%$
259 mortality or $\geq 90\%$ blood-feeding inhibition in tunnel tests.

260 **Chemical analysis of net pieces**

261 Following completion of the bioassays, all unwashed and washed net pieces used in the regeneration
262 time and wash-resistance studies were sent to the Centre Walloon de Recherches Agronomiques
263 (CRA-W) in Belgium for chemical analysis to determine within- and between net-variation of the AIs
264 in the ITNs and their respective wash-resistance indexes. Deltamethrin and CFP content in PermaNet®
265 Dual and PermaNet® 2.0 pieces were extracted by sonication with heptane using dicyclohexyl
266 phthalate as internal standard and determined by normal phase High Performance Liquid
267 Chromatography with UV Diode Array Detection. Alpha-cypermethrin and CFP in Interceptor® G2

268 were extracted from net samples by sonication with heptane using dicyclohexyl phthalate as internal
269 standard and determined by Gas Chromatography with Flame Ionisation Detection. Each method of
270 analysis was performed using the internal standard calibration. The analytical methods used were
271 based on validated and standardized methods published by the Collaborative International Pesticides
272 Analytical Council (CIPAC). The chemical analysis results were used to calculate the proportional
273 retention of active ingredients (AIs) after each wash for up to 20 standardised washes. The wash-
274 resistance index of the ITNs was also calculated according to WHO guidelines (19) as follows:

$$275 \quad \text{Wash resistance index} = 100 \times \sqrt[n]{\left(\frac{t_n}{t_0}\right)}$$

276 *Where: n = the number of washes, t_n = total AI content (g/kg) after n washes and, t₀ = the total AI*
277 *content (g/kg) with unwashed nets.*

278 **Data analysis**

279 All laboratory bioassay data was recorded initially by hand on standardised data record forms before
280 double entry into predesigned databases in Microsoft Excel. For regeneration time studies,
281 proportional knockdown and mortality of mosquitoes were plotted against the number of days since
282 washing. Knockdown and mortality of the Kisumu strain in cone bioassays was used to assess the
283 regeneration time of the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual while mortality of the Covè
284 strain was used to assess the regeneration time of its CFP component. The time taken in days to reach
285 a plateau in these outcomes was considered the regeneration time for each AI. For wash-resistance
286 studies, knockdown and mortality for cone bioassays and mortality and blood-feeding inhibition for
287 tunnel tests were plotted against the number of washes. As per the efficacy criteria outlined in
288 WHOPES guidelines, PermaNet® Dual was considered to retain its biological efficacy after 20
289 standardised washes if it achieved ≥80% mortality and/or ≥95% knockdown in cone bioassays and
290 ≥80% mortality and/or ≥90% blood-feeding inhibition in tunnel tests.

291 **Ethical considerations**

292 We obtained ethical approval for the use of guinea pigs for blood-feeding of mosquito colonies and
293 tunnel tests from the Animal Welfare Ethics Review Board of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical
294 Medicine (LSHTM) (Ref: 2020-01). Guinea pig colonies were maintained at CREC/LSHTM animal house
295 according to standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed in line with international regulations
296 governing use of animals for scientific research purposes.

297 **Compliance with OECD principles of Good Laboratory Practice**

298 To ensure compliance with the OECD principles of GLP, a series of activities were implemented during
299 the initiation, execution, and reporting of the study. The study protocol was developed by a trained
300 study director and approved by the sponsor before starting the study. Equipment used for the study
301 (incubators and refrigerators for storage of ITN pieces, shaker baths for washing ITN pieces, and data
302 loggers for monitoring ambient conditions) were calibrated before use. All ITN products used were
303 verified to be within their expiry dates and were provided with certificates of analysis. The candidate
304 PermaNet® Dual nets supplied by the manufacturer (Vestergaard Sàrl) were confirmed to come from
305 three production batches. The environmental conditions under which the test products were stored
306 were also verified daily using a calibrated data logger. Mosquitoes used for cone bioassays and tunnel
307 tests were reared and transported in line with established SOPs that ensured the integrity of the
308 strains tested. All computer systems (data loggers, databases, statistical software) used for data
309 collection, entry and processing were validated before use. Physical records were kept of each
310 procedure performed during the study. The quality assurance team of the CREC/LSHTM Facility
311 performed inspections of the study protocol, critical phases of implementation, data quality and final
312 report to assess compliance to GLP and no non-conformances were detected. The final report, along
313 with all study-related documents, are securely stored in the physical and electronic archive of the
314 Facility for up to 15 years. Study inspections performed in 2021 by the South African National
315 Accreditation System (SANAS), the GLP certification body of the Facility, also detected no non-
316 conformances.

317

318 **Results**

319 **Susceptibility bioassay results**

320 Mortality of the *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu strain was very high ($\geq 98\%$) following exposure to the
 321 discriminating concentrations of alpha-cypermethrin, deltamethrin and CFP thus confirming its
 322 continued susceptibility to the AIs used in the ITNs (Table 1). In contrast, low proportions of the *An.*
 323 *gambiae* s.l. Covè strain were killed following exposure to the discriminating concentrations of alpha-
 324 cypermethrin (4%) and deltamethrin (10%) confirming that this strain continued to exhibit a high
 325 frequency of pyrethroid resistance. The discriminating concentration of CFP however induced 100%
 326 mortality of the Covè strain thus confirming continued susceptibility to the pyrrole. Mortality was
 327 negligible ($\leq 4\%$) with the silicone oil and acetone controls with both strains.

328 **Table 1:** Susceptibility bioassay results with the *Anopheles gambiae sensu stricto* Kisumu strain and
 329 *Anopheles gambiae sensu lato* Covè strain. Approximately 100 mosquitoes of each strain were exposed
 330 to the discriminating concentrations of alpha-cypermethrin (0.05% filter paper), deltamethrin (0.05%
 331 filter paper) and chlorfenapyr (100 µg coated bottle) for 60 mins in four cohorts of 20–25. Mortality
 332 was recorded after 24 h for alpha-cypermethrin and deltamethrin while for chlorfenapyr, mortality
 333 was recorded after 72 h.

Treatment	Strain	N	N dead	% Mortality	95% CIs
Silicone oil (control)	Kisumu	101	0	0.0	
	Covè	97	3	3.1	0–6.5
Alpha-cypermethrin (0.05%)	Kisumu	98	98	100	
	Covè	99	4	4.0	0.1–7.9
Deltamethrin (0.05%)	Kisumu	100	100	100	
	Covè	96	10	10.4	4.3–16.5
Acetone (control)	Kisumu	100	0	0.0	
	Covè	100	4	4.0	0.2–7.8
Chlorfenapyr (100 µg)	Kisumu	100	98	98.0	95.3–100
	Covè	101	101	100	

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337 **Preliminary assessment of test method and strain suitability results**

338 PermaNet® Dual induced moderate mortality (72%) of the susceptible Kisumu strain in cone bioassays
339 while mortality rates were lower with Interceptor® G2 (33%) and PermaNet® 2.0 (44%) (Figure 3a). By
340 contrast, all ITNs induced near maximum mortality ($\geq 99\%$) of the Kisumu strain in tunnel tests (Figure
341 3b). Based on the moderate mortality response of the susceptible strain with PermaNet® Dual, cone
342 bioassays were adopted as the primary method to assess deltamethrin on PermaNet® Dual with
343 tunnel tests used only if efficacy criteria for knockdown ($\geq 95\%$) and mortality ($\geq 80\%$) in cone bioassays
344 were not achieved (19). In cone bioassays performed against the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain,
345 mortality was low with both pyrethroid-CFP ITNs (7% with PermaNet® Dual and 27% with Interceptor®
346 G2) and similar to the pyrethroid-only ITN PermaNet® 2.0 (10%). The low mortality rates observed
347 with both pyrethroid-CFP ITNs in cone bioassays is attributable to the non-neurotoxic mode of action
348 of CFP thus confirming the unsuitability of this method for assessing CFP on PermaNet® Dual. In tunnel
349 tests however, both PermaNet® Dual and Interceptor® G2 induced near maximum mortality ($\sim 99\%$)
350 of the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain. Based on this, tunnel tests were considered the more
351 appropriate method for capturing the effect of CFP and were adopted for regeneration time and wash-
352 resistance studies of CFP on PermaNet® Dual.

353

354 **Figure 3:** Mortality after 24 h of the susceptible *Anopheles gambiae sensu stricto* Kisumu strain (a) and
355 mortality after 72 h of the pyrethroid-resistant *Anopheles gambiae sensu lato* Covè strain (b) in
356 preliminary cone bioassays and tunnel tests to compare test methods and strain suitability. A total of
357 200 mosquitoes per strain were exposed to each net type with both test methods. Error bars represent
358 95% confidence intervals.

359

360

361 **Regeneration time results**

362 **Regeneration time cone bioassay results**

363 Knockdown and mortality rates of the susceptible *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu strain in cone bioassays
364 were initially used to assess the regeneration time of the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual.
365 Knockdown after 60 mins of the susceptible Kisumu strain was high (91%) following exposure to
366 unwashed PermaNet® Dual pieces and was similar (88%) in cone bioassays performed with net pieces
367 washed three times in the same day i.e. day 0 (Figure 4). In subsequent cone bioassays performed
368 with washed net pieces at 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 days after washing, knockdown remained consistently high
369 (72–87%) showing no reduction after washing, with only slight decreases observed at days 2 (72%)
370 and 3 (72%). A similar trend was observed with mortality. Unwashed net pieces induced 72% mortality
371 after 24 h, and in cone bioassays performed on the same day with net pieces washed three
372 consecutive times, mortality increased slightly to 79% (Figure 5). In subsequent cone bioassays
373 performed with the washed net pieces at 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 days after washing, mortality remained
374 consistent (79–86%), showing no substantial differences. Knockdown and mortality remained within
375 10% after day 1 showing minimal changes in efficacy after this day and indicating establishment of a
376 plateau from day 1. Knockdown and mortality with the untreated control net remained low (0–3%)
377 throughout regeneration time cone bioassays. Based on these results, the knockdown and mortality
378 effects deltamethrin in PermaNet® Dual against the susceptible Kisumu strain were judged to have
379 regenerated in less than 1 day after washing. Detailed regeneration time cone bioassay results are
380 provided in supplementary information (Table S1).

381

382 **Figure 4:** Knockdown after 60 mins and mortality after 24 h of the susceptible *Anopheles gambiae*
383 sensu stricto Kisumu strain exposed to PermaNet® Dual net pieces in regeneration time cone
384 bioassays. At each timepoint, approximately 50 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the four

385 *unwashed and washed PermaNet® Dual net pieces for 3 mins in ten cohorts of 4–6. Error bars represent*
386 *95% confidence intervals.*

387 **Regeneration time tunnel test results**

388 Mortality rates of the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain in tunnel tests were used to assess the
389 regeneration time of the CFP component of PermaNet® Dual. Unwashed PermaNet® Dual net pieces
390 induced very high mortality (98%) and in tunnel tests performed on the same day with net pieces
391 washed three times, mortality was similar (95%) (Figure 5). In subsequent tunnel tests performed with
392 the washed net pieces at 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 days after washing, mortality remained consistently high (92–
393 98%). Mortality with the untreated control net was low (3–5%) throughout regeneration time tunnel
394 tests. Based on these results, the mortality effect of chlorfenapyr in PermaNet® Dual against the
395 pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain was judged to have regenerated within in less than 1 day after
396 washing. A 1-day wash interval was thus adopted for wash-resistance testing of PermaNet® Dual.
397 Detailed regeneration time tunnel test results are provided in supplementary information (Table S2).

398

399 **Figure 5:** Mortality after 72 h of the pyrethroid-resistant *Anopheles gambiae sensu lato* Covè strain
400 exposed to PermaNet® Dual net pieces regeneration time tunnel tests. *At each timepoint,*
401 *approximately 100 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the two randomly selected unwashed and*
402 *washed PermaNet® Dual net pieces overnight in one replicate tunnel test. Error bars represent 95%*
403 *confidence intervals.*

404 **Wash-resistance results**

405 **Wash-resistance cone bioassay results**

406 Knockdown and mortality rates of the susceptible Kisumu strain in cone bioassays were used to assess
407 the wash-resistance of the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual. As per the efficacy criteria
408 outlined in WHO guidelines (19), the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual was considered to

409 have retained its biological efficacy after 20 washes if it induced $\geq 95\%$ knockdown and/or $\geq 80\%$
410 mortality in cone bioassays.

411 Unwashed PermaNet[®] Dual net pieces induced 78% knockdown after 60 mins of the susceptible
412 Kisumu strain in cone bioassays and a similar knockdown effect was observed with washed net pieces
413 ranging from 75–88% and failing to surpass 95% at all wash-points (Figure 6a). Mortality after 24 h
414 with unwashed PermaNet[®] Dual net pieces was also low (39%) and although this increased at
415 subsequent wash-points (46–76%), it remained $< 80\%$ (Figure 6b). PermaNet[®] Dual thus failed to
416 surpass WHO efficacy criteria for knockdown or mortality at any wash-point. With PermaNet[®] 2.0,
417 knockdown was $< 95\%$ at all wash-points tested meanwhile mortality was low with unwashed net
418 pieces (44%) but increased to 66% after 1 wash and then to $> 80\%$ at all subsequent wash-points except
419 after 20 washes (72%). As with PermaNet[®] Dual, knockdown and mortality rates with Interceptor[®] G2
420 did not surpass WHO efficacy criteria at any wash-point. We observed no knockdown and very low
421 mortality (2%) of susceptible Kisumu strain mosquitoes exposed to untreated control net pieces in
422 wash-resistance cone bioassays.

423 PermaNet[®] Dual thus failed to achieve WHO efficacy criteria for knockdown and mortality in cone
424 bioassays against the susceptible Kisumu strain after 20 washes. WHO guidelines recommend that
425 ITNs failing to achieve efficacy criteria in cone bioassays should be evaluated in tunnel tests. We
426 therefore performed tunnel tests with the susceptible *An. gambiae* s.s. Kisumu strain to better assess
427 the wash-resistance of the deltamethrin component of PermaNet[®] Dual. Detailed wash-resistance
428 cone bioassay results are provided in supplementary information (Table S3).

429

430 **Figure 6:** Knockdown after 60 mins (a) and mortality after 24 h (b) of the susceptible *Anopheles*
431 *gambiae sensu stricto* Kisumu strain in wash-resistance cone bioassays. At each wash-point,
432 approximately 50 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the four net pieces of each net type for 3 mins

433 *in ten cohorts of 4–6. Red dashed lines represent efficacy thresholds for each outcome. Errors bars*
434 *represent 95% confidence intervals.*

435 **Wash-resistance tunnel test results**

436 Owing to the failure of the candidate net to achieve WHO efficacy criteria against the susceptible
437 Kisumu strain in cone bioassays, tunnel tests were performed with the same strain to better assess
438 the wash-resistance of the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual. Tunnel tests were also
439 performed with the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain to assess the wash-resistance of the CFP
440 component of PermaNet® Dual and provide additional data on its efficacy against pyrethroid-resistant
441 mosquitoes. Wash-resistance was assessed over separate time points for each AI i.e. 24 h for
442 deltamethrin and 72 h for CFP which made it possible to dissociate and attribute activity to either
443 compound. PermaNet® Dual was considered to have retained its biological efficacy after 20 washes if
444 it induced $\geq 80\%$ mortality and/or $\geq 90\%$ blood-feeding inhibition in tunnel tests.

445 Unwashed PermaNet® Dual induced 100% mortality of the susceptible Kisumu strain and in tunnel
446 tests with net pieces washed 10 and 20 times, mortality remained very high ($\geq 98\%$) (Figure 7a). A
447 similar trend was observed with PermaNet® 2.0 and Interceptor® G2, as almost maximum mortality
448 ($>99\%$) was observed with unwashed net pieces which remained very high ($\geq 99\%$) after 10 and 20
449 washes. Unwashed PermaNet® Dual net pieces also induced high levels of blood-feeding inhibition
450 (93%). In tunnel tests with net pieces washed 10 times, blood-feeding inhibition decreased slightly to
451 88% but, with net pieces washed 20 times this increased again to 98% (Figure 7b). Similarly, unwashed
452 PermaNet® 2.0 and Interceptor® G2 net pieces induced 100% and 88% blood-feeding inhibition
453 respectively, and these values remained very high ($>98\%$) after 10 and 20 washes.

454 Unwashed PermaNet® Dual induced 98% mortality of the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain and this
455 remained very high with net pieces washed 10 times (97%) and 20 times (91%) (Figure 8a). A similar
456 trend was observed with Interceptor® G2 which killed 99% of the Covè strain when unwashed and
457 continued to induce high mortality rates after 10 (92%) and 20 washes (87%). In contrast, although we

458 observed relatively high mortality of the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain exposed to unwashed
459 PermaNet® 2.0 pieces (84%), this fell considerably after 10 and 20 washes to 63% and 47%
460 respectively. Blood-feeding inhibition was high with unwashed PermaNet® Dual pieces (93%)
461 however, this decreased to 82% and 72% after 10 and 20 washes respectively (Figure 8b). A similar
462 trend was observed with Interceptor® G2 and PermaNet® 2.0. Unwashed Interceptor® G2 and
463 PermaNet® induced 93% and 92% blood-feeding inhibition respectively however, this fell below WHO
464 cut-offs with net pieces washed 10 times (Interceptor® G2: 82%, PermaNet® 2.0: 84%) and 20 times
465 (Interceptor® G2: 79%, PermaNet® 2.0: 68%). Both pyrethroid-CFP ITNs (PermaNet® Dual,
466 Interceptor® G2) thus induced superior mortality and similar levels of blood-feeding inhibition against
467 the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain compared to the pyrethroid-only ITN (PermaNet® 2.0)
468 demonstrating the potential of this net class to improve control of pyrethroid-resistant malaria vector
469 populations.

470 Mortality with mosquitoes exposed to untreated control net pieces was low (4%) for both strains while
471 blood-feeding rates were high (76–79%). PermaNet® Dual thus achieved WHO efficacy criteria for
472 mortality and blood-feeding inhibition against the susceptible Kisumu strain and for mortality against
473 the pyrethroid-resistant Covè strain. Detailed wash-resistance tunnel test results are provided in
474 supplementary information (Table S4).

475

476 **Figure 7:** Mortality after 72 h (a) and blood-feeding inhibition (b) of the susceptible *Anopheles*
477 *gambiae sensu stricto* Kisumu strain in wash-resistance tunnel tests. At each wash-point,
478 approximately 100 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the two net pieces of each net type overnight
479 in one replicate tunnel test. Red-dashed lines represent efficacy thresholds for each outcome. Errors
480 bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

481

482 **Figure 8:** Mortality after 72 h (a) and blood-feeding inhibition (b) of the pyrethroid-resistant *Anopheles*
483 *gambiae sensu lato* Covè strain in wash-resistance tunnel tests. At each wash-point, approximately
484 100 mosquitoes were exposed to each of the two net pieces of each net type overnight in one replicate
485 tunnel test. Red-dashed lines represent efficacy thresholds for each outcome. Error bars represent 95%
486 confidence intervals.

487 **Chemical analysis of net pieces results**

488 Analysis of the 20 PermaNet® Dual net pieces set aside for determination of within- and between-net
489 variation revealed a mean AI content of 2.3 g/kg for deltamethrin and 5.1 g/kg for CFP showing that
490 the nets complied with WHO tolerance thresholds ($\pm 25\%$) for both AIs (Table 2). The within-net
491 variation expressed as the relative standard deviation (RSD) of the AI content in 5 net pieces obtained
492 from the same net ranged from 1.9% to 15.0% for deltamethrin and 2.3% to 18.1% for CFP showing
493 an acceptable homogeneity of both AIs on the net. The RSD of AI content in net pieces obtained from
494 four different PermaNet® Dual nets was 3.3% for deltamethrin and 8.4% for CFP also showing an
495 acceptable level of between-net variation.

496 Analysis of net pieces washed 0, 1, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 times for wash-resistance studies showed that
497 the deltamethrin component of PermaNet® Dual was more wash-resistant (24.2% retention after 20
498 washes) than CFP (5.4% retention after 20 washes) (Figures 9a and 9b). The wash-resistance index of
499 deltamethrin was therefore higher than CFP after 20 washes (93.2% vs. 86.4%). Between the ITNs,
500 there was a faster decline in deltamethrin content with PermaNet® 2.0 (11.8% retention after 20
501 washes) compared to PermaNet® Dual (24.2% retention after 20 washes). In contrast, there was a
502 higher retention of AI content with Interceptor® G2 compared to PermaNet® Dual for both the
503 pyrethroid (65.6% for alpha-cypermethrin vs. 24.2% for deltamethrin) and CFP components (29.7% vs.
504 5.4%) (Figures 9c and 9d). The wash-resistance index of deltamethrin after 20 washes was therefore
505 higher with PermaNet® Dual than PermaNet® 2.0 (93.2% vs. 89.9%) while Interceptor® G2 had higher
506 wash-resistance indexes for its pyrethroid and CFP components (97.9% with alpha-cypermethrin and

507 94.1% with CFP) compared to PermaNet® Dual (93.2% with deltamethrin and 86.4% with CFP).
 508 Detailed chemical analysis results showing AI retention in nets after washing for regeneration time
 509 and wash-resistance studies are provided in supplementary information (Table S5).

510

511 **Figure 9:** Wash retention of deltamethrin (a) and chlorfenapyr (b) in PermaNet® Dual and alpha-
 512 cypermethrin (c) and chlorfenapyr (d) in Interceptor® G2 net pieces used in wash-resistance studies.
 513 *Solid lines represent lines of best fit while dashed lines represent target active ingredient content.*
 514 *WRI=Wash-resistance index, AI=Active ingredient.*

515 **Table 2:** Within- and between-net variation of insecticide content in PermaNet® Dual net pieces. **Each*
 516 *value is the mean active ingredient content in 5 net pieces.*

Net type	Active ingredient (AI)	Net no.	AI content (g/kg)*	Within-net variation % Relative standard deviation (RSD)	Mean AI content (g/kg)	Target AI content (g/kg)	% Difference	Between-net variation % RSD
PermaNet Dual	Deltamethrin	1	2.25	5.0	2.33	2.1	+11.0	3.3
		2	2.42	4.8				
		3	2.28	15.0				
		4	2.37	1.9				
	Chlorfenapyr	1	4.59	8.8	5.12	5.0	+2.4	8.4
		2	5.26	4.3				
		3	5.61	18.1				
		4	5.01	2.3				

517

518 Discussion

519 To be added to the WHO list of prequalified vector control products and procured by major malaria
 520 control agencies, candidate ITN products must undergo a series of tests to demonstrate their safety,
 521 quality, and efficacy. These tests include laboratory studies to characterise the bioefficacy and
 522 physiochemical properties of the ITN. In this laboratory study, we assessed the efficacy, wash-
 523 resistance, and regeneration time of a new deltamethrin-CFP net (PermaNet® Dual) according to
 524 applicable WHO guidelines (19). PermaNet® Dual fulfilled WHO efficacy criteria against susceptible
 525 mosquitoes in laboratory bioassays and showed potential to improve control of pyrethroid-resistant
 526 malaria vectors.

527 The results showed that mosquito mortality with both pyrethroid-CFP ITNs was higher in tunnel tests
528 than in cone bioassays, especially with pyrethroid-resistant mosquitoes as observed in the preliminary
529 bioassays. Based on this, tunnel tests were used for studies assessing the regeneration time and wash-
530 resistance of CFP on PermaNet® Dual. The unsuitability of cone bioassays for assessing the efficacy of
531 CFP on ITNs is well-documented (25, 26). CFP is a pro-insecticide which owes its toxicity to the
532 disruption of respiratory pathways in the insect mitochondria and because of this, it induces greater
533 toxicity against insects with higher levels of metabolic activity (6). *Anopheles* mosquitoes exhibit peak
534 flight activity during host-seeking which occurs at night due to the phase of their circadian rhythm
535 (27). Testing modalities such as the cone bioassay, which are conducted during the day and restrict
536 mosquito flight activity, are therefore more likely to underestimate the efficacy of pyrethroid-CFP ITNs
537 compared to overnight tunnel tests which simulate the normal behavioural interactions that occur
538 between free-flying mosquitoes and nets during host-seeking. Our findings corroborate those of
539 previous studies (25, 26) showing that tunnel tests with a highly pyrethroid-resistant mosquito strain
540 represent a reliable method for assessing the activity of CFP on ITNs.

541 Laboratory and experimental hut studies assessing ITN efficacy simulate loss of insecticide by washing
542 because this is considered among the primary drivers of insecticidal loss on ITNs under user conditions
543 (28). When surface insecticide is depleted after washing, the time taken for the reservoir insecticide
544 to migrate to the surface and restore full biological efficacy – the regeneration time – is adopted as
545 the wash-interval for these studies. Under real-life user conditions, nets are washed at intervals much
546 greater than the regeneration time meaning they have enough time to regenerate between washes.
547 For laboratory and experimental hut studies however, nets are washed at intervals corresponding to
548 the regeneration time for practical reasons, as it represents the shortest possible time required for
549 AIs to regenerate at the net surface after washing. In regeneration time studies, the biological activity
550 of the deltamethrin and CFP components of PermaNet® Dual was consistently high showing no
551 conspicuous dip in knockdown or mortality in the days after washing. This finding indicates that
552 PermaNet® Dual may be a non-regenerating product. PermaNet® Dual is a coated net meaning the AIs

553 are affixed onto the polymer matrix at the net surface in a fine layer of coating. This means that the
554 AI does not need to migrate to the surface after washing and is thus immediately bioavailable to
555 mosquitoes. The fast recovery of the biological activity of PermaNet® Dual after washing could
556 therefore be attributable to its coating technology resulting in greater surface bioavailability of the
557 AIs immediately after washing. By contrast, nets treated by the incorporation technology usually show
558 slower recovery of biological activity after washing in regeneration time studies (17) because the AI is
559 mixed into the polymer matrix of the net and would need to migrate to the surface of the net to
560 become bioavailable to mosquitoes after washing. The rate of migration will also depend on multiple
561 factors including the: size of the polymer matrix, types of polymers used for the coating, and ambient
562 temperature (20).

563 Compared to Interceptor® G2, PermaNet® Dual induced higher knockdown and mortality of the
564 susceptible Kisumu strain in cone bioassays and similar mortality of the pyrethroid-resistant Covè
565 strain in tunnel tests. A review of the comparative efficacy of different types of pyrethroids showed
566 that they induce broadly similar mortality responses of various laboratory-reared mosquito strains
567 (29). Hence, the superior performance of PermaNet® Dual against the susceptible strain in cone
568 bioassays was probably due to the higher loading dose and surface availability of pyrethroid in
569 PermaNet® Dual rather than differences in the type of pyrethroid used on each net. The comparable
570 performance of PermaNet® Dual and Interceptor® G2 against pyrethroid-resistant mosquitoes is
571 consistent with a recent experimental hut trial in Benin which demonstrated the non-inferiority of
572 PermaNet® Dual to Interceptor® G2 against wild, pyrethroid-resistant mosquitoes (30). Based on this
573 and similar evidence of efficacy from trials in Côte d'Ivoire (31) and Kenya (22), PermaNet® Dual was
574 added to the WHO list of prequalified vector control products (17) and included in the recent policy
575 recommendation for pyrethroid-CFP ITNs (22). The findings of the present study reaffirm that
576 PermaNet® Dual performs similarly to the first-in-class pyrethroid-CFP ITN Interceptor® G2 and
577 represents an additional option of this highly effective net class for control of malaria transmitted by
578 pyrethroid-resistant mosquitoes.

579 In laboratory studies, the ability of an ITN to remain effective over several years is assessed by
580 subjecting nets to bioassays and chemical analysis for up to 20 standardised washes – a surrogate for
581 insecticidal loss over 3 years of field use assuming nets are washed every few months (19). Both
582 pyrethroid-CFP ITNs met WHO efficacy thresholds in tunnel tests after 20 washes corroborating
583 previous studies (22, 30, 31) and thus showing their potential to remain efficacious over several years
584 of household use. This suggests that the lower total CFP content retention observed with PermaNet®
585 Dual compared to Interceptor® G2 had little or no impact on the durability of its insecticidal activity.
586 An assessment of the amount of bioavailable surface AI on each ITN type after 20 washes may better
587 explain the discrepancy in the chemical analysis and bioefficacy results with both pyrethroid-CFP ITNs
588 after washing. Longitudinal field studies evaluating the durability of the insecticidal activity of
589 PermaNet® Dual over several years under user conditions are advisable.

590

591 **Conclusion**

592 In this laboratory study, we showed that PermaNet® Dual fulfilled WHO efficacy criteria against
593 susceptible mosquitoes in laboratory bioassays and has potential to improve control of pyrethroid-
594 resistant malaria vectors. These findings confirm those of recent experimental hut studies
595 demonstrating that PermaNet® Dual represents an additional option within the highly effective
596 pyrethroid-CFP net class for control of malaria transmitted by pyrethroid-resistant mosquitoes.

597

598 **List of abbreviations**

599 **AI** – Active Ingredient

600 **CFP** – Chlorfenapyr

601 **CRA-W** – Centre Walloon de Recherches Agronomiques

602 **cRCT** – Cluster-randomised controlled trial

603 **CREC** – Centre de Recherche Entomologique de Cotonou

604 **GLP** – Good Laboratory Practice

605 **ITN** – Insecticide-treated net

606 **LSHTM** – London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

607 **OECD** – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

608 **PBO** – Piperonyl butoxide

609 **PQT/VCP** – Prequalification Unit Vector Control Product Assessment Team

610 **RSD** – Relative standard deviation

611 **SOP** – Standard Operating Procedure

612 **WHO** – World Health Organisation

613 **WHOPES** – World Health Organisation Pesticide Evaluation Scheme

614

615 **Availability of study materials**

616 All aggregated datasets used and/or analysed during the study are provided as supplementary
617 information. The full disaggregated datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are
618 available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

619

620 **Competing interests**

621 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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626

627 **Authors' contributions**

628 CN designed the study, acquired funding, supervised the project and prepared the final manuscript.
629 TS supervised the laboratory bioassays, analysed the data, prepared the graphs and prepared the draft
630 manuscript. BN performed the laboratory bioassays while DT performed the susceptibility bioassays.
631 VA ensured compliance of the study to principles of Good Laboratory Practice. All authors read and
632 approved the final version of the manuscript.

633

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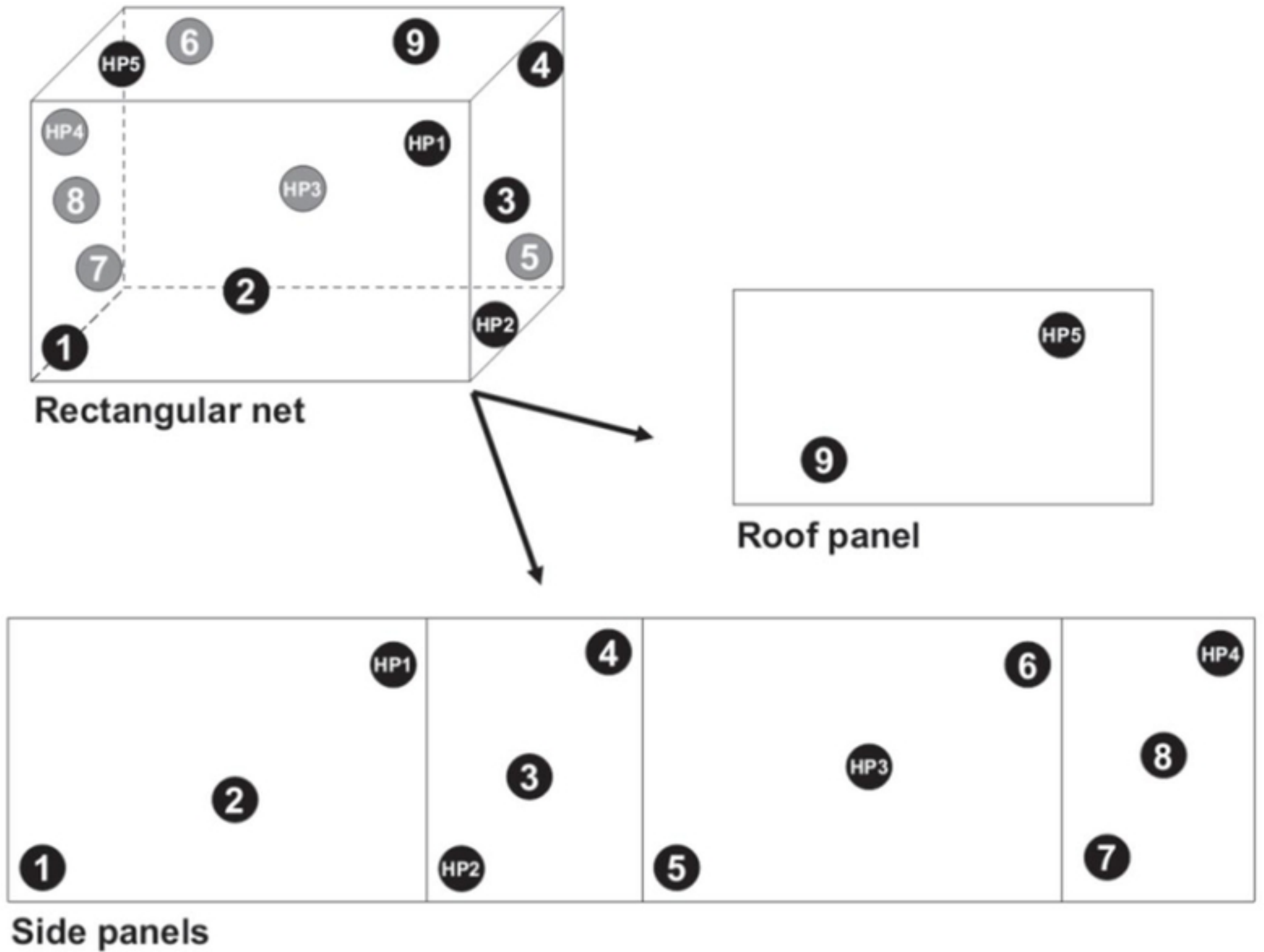
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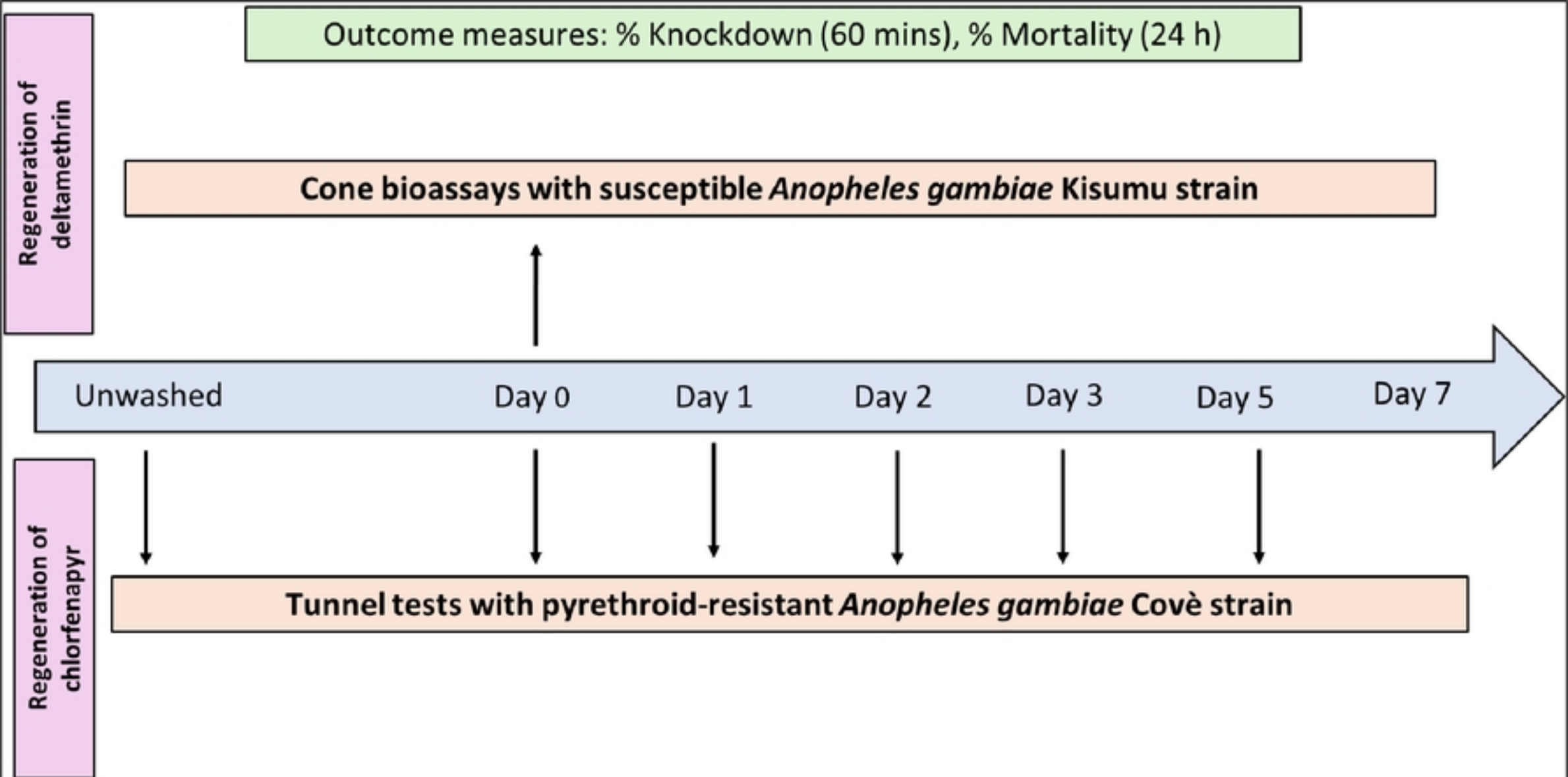
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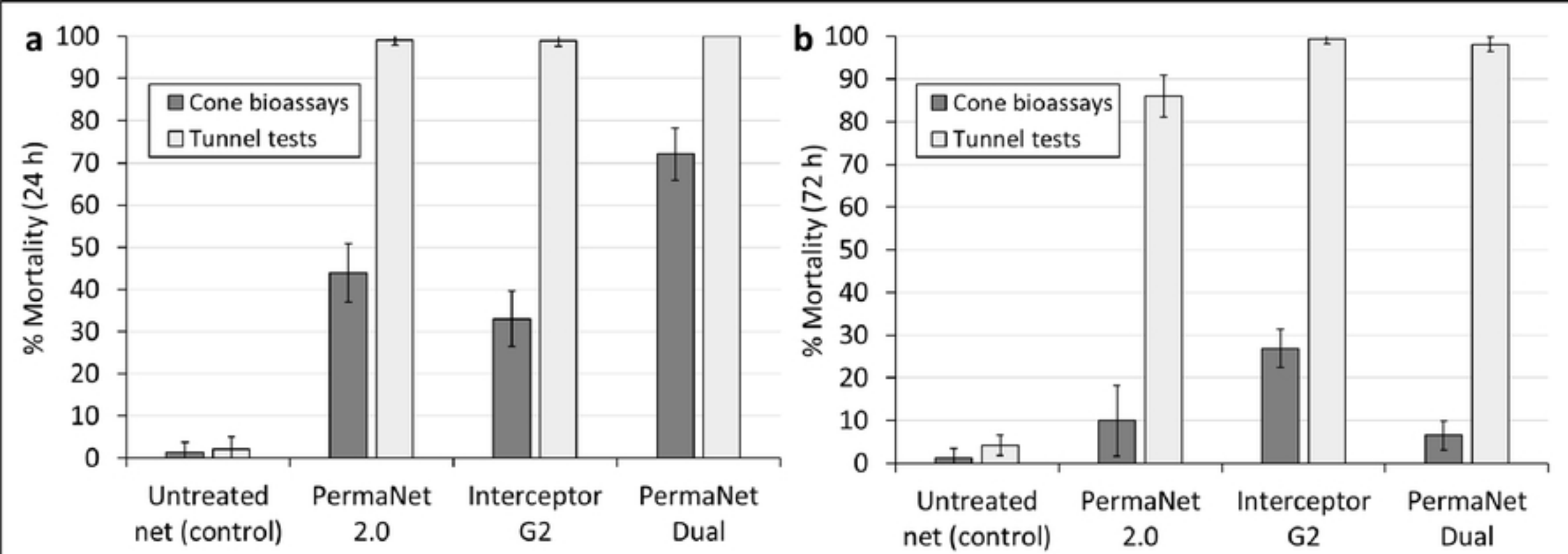
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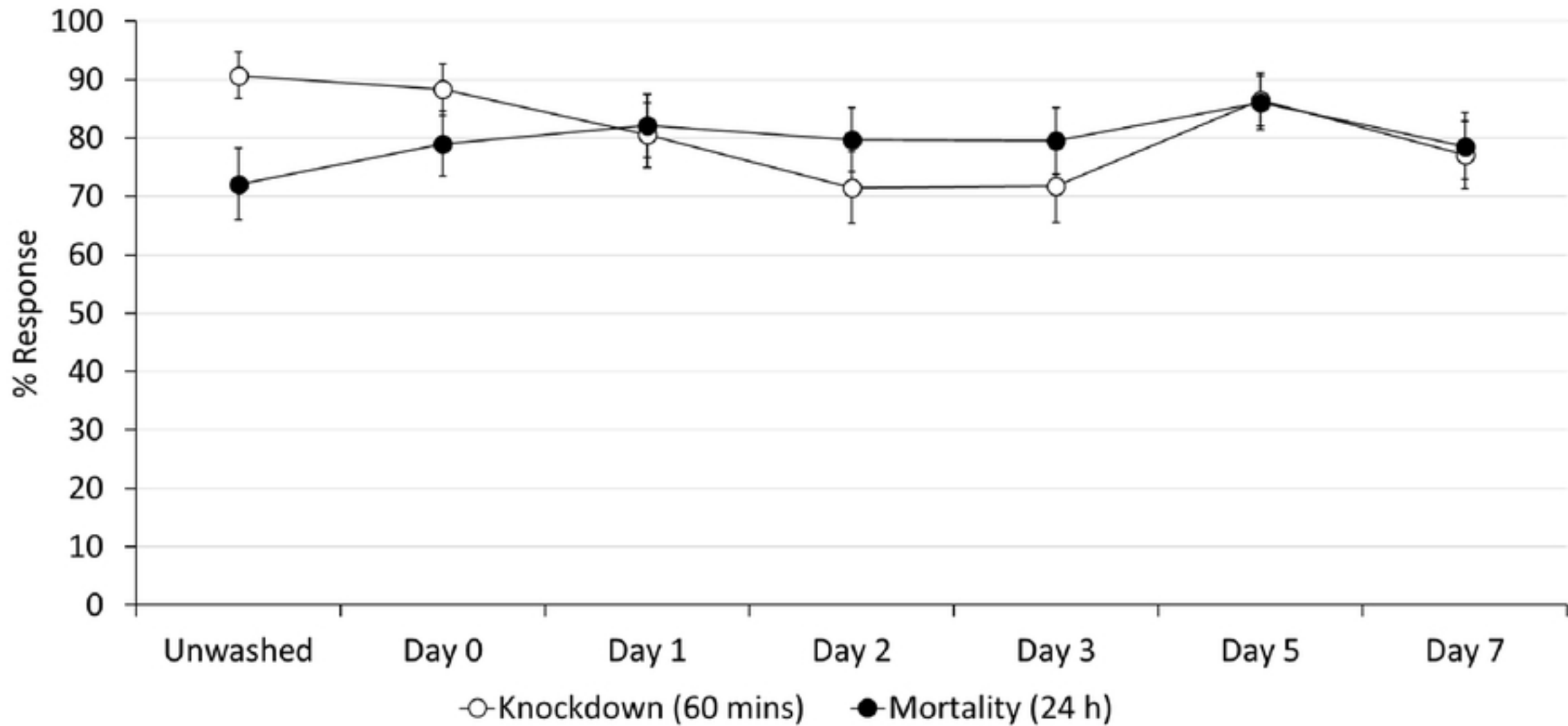
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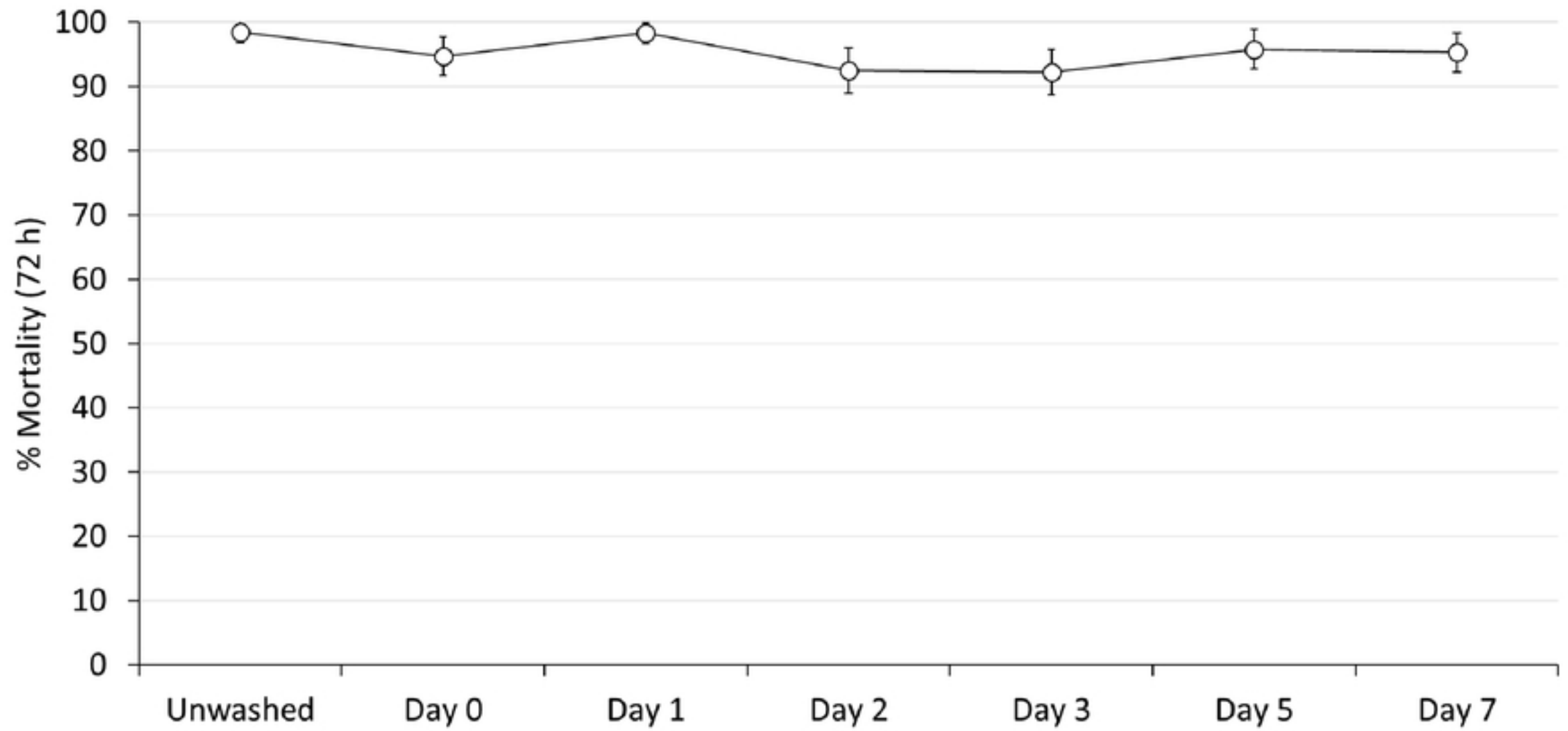
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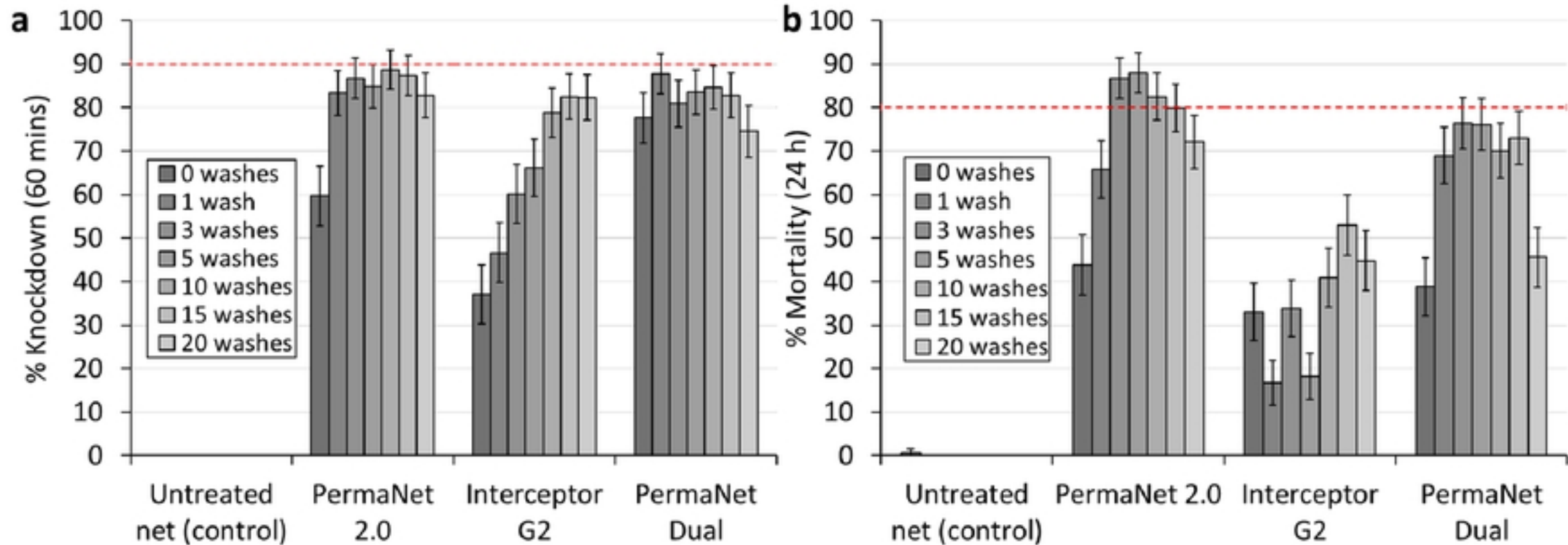
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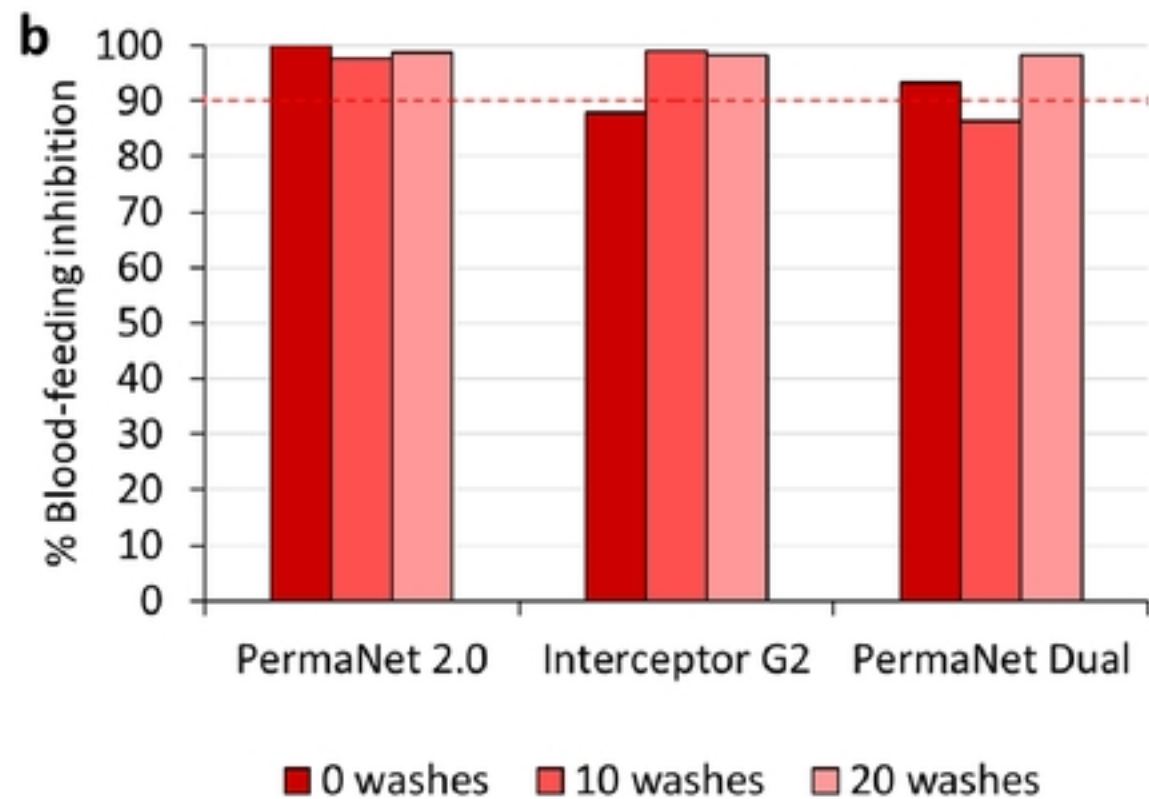
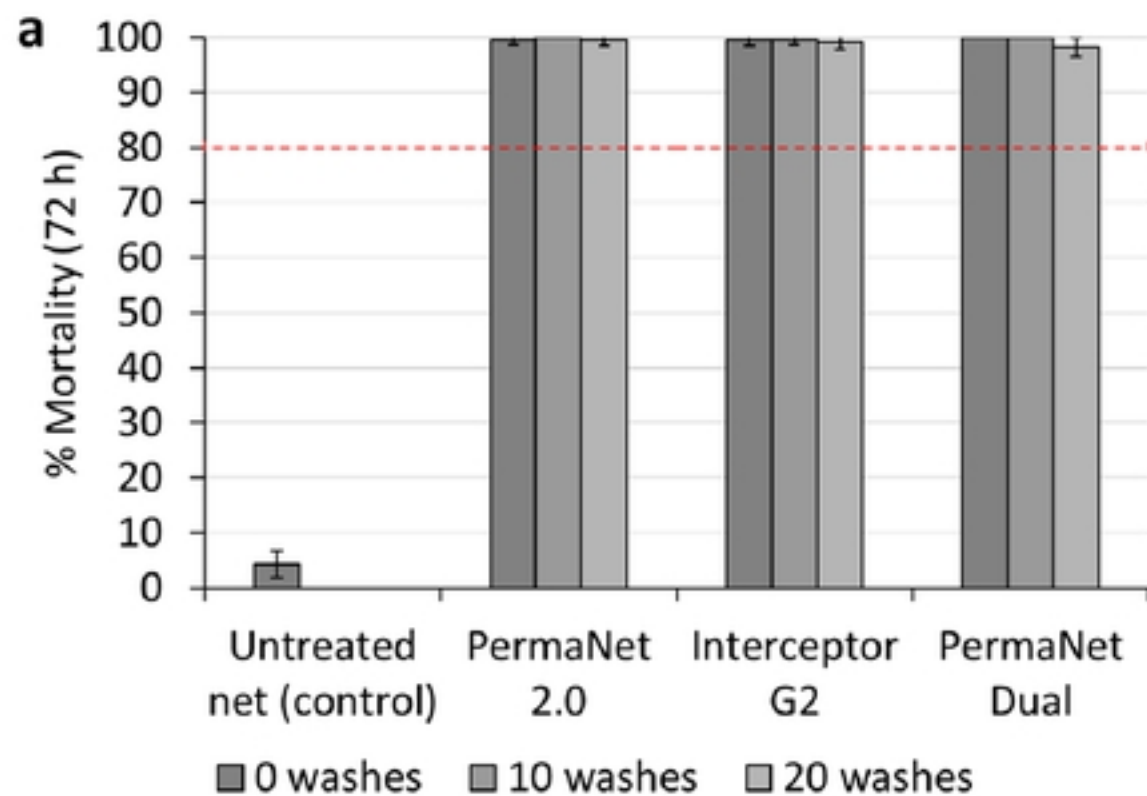
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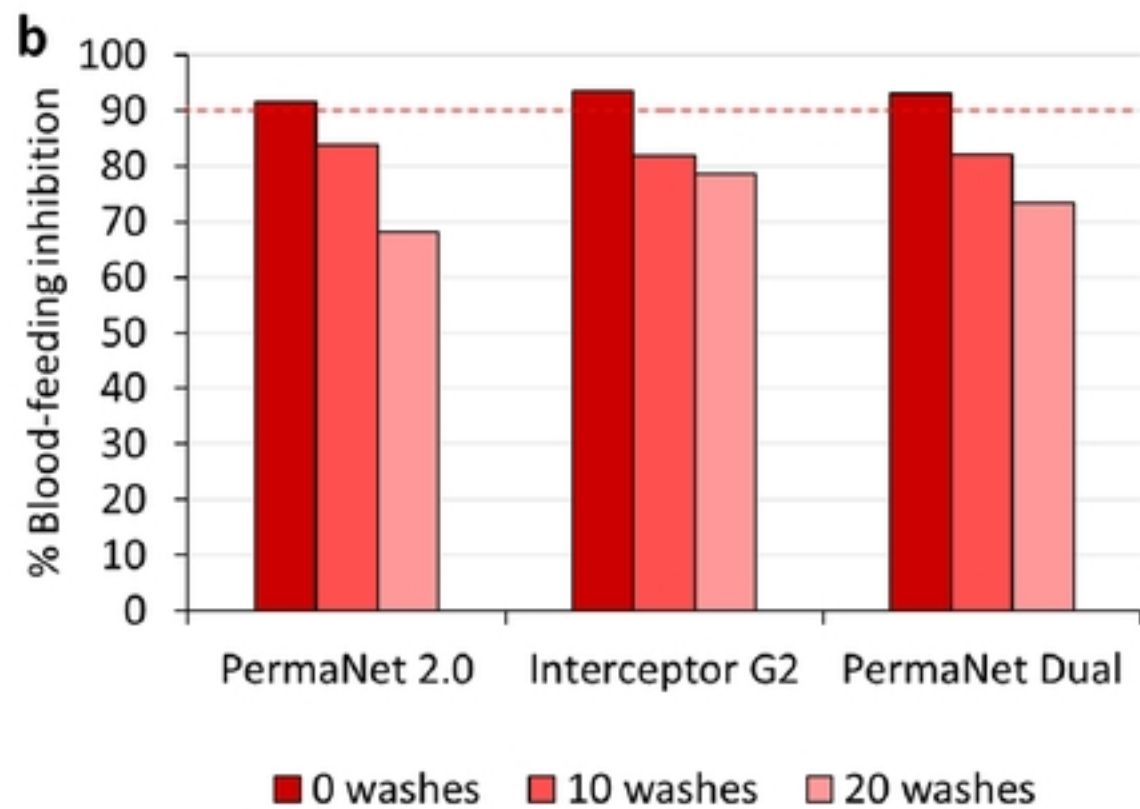
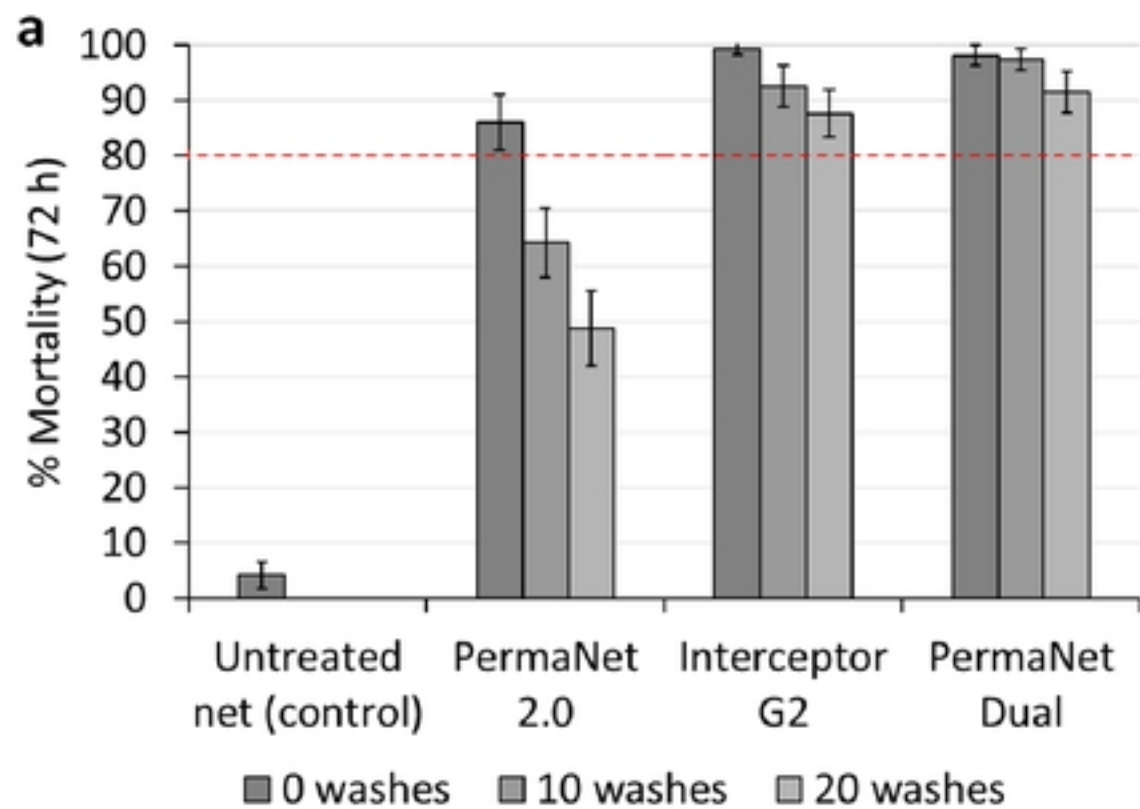
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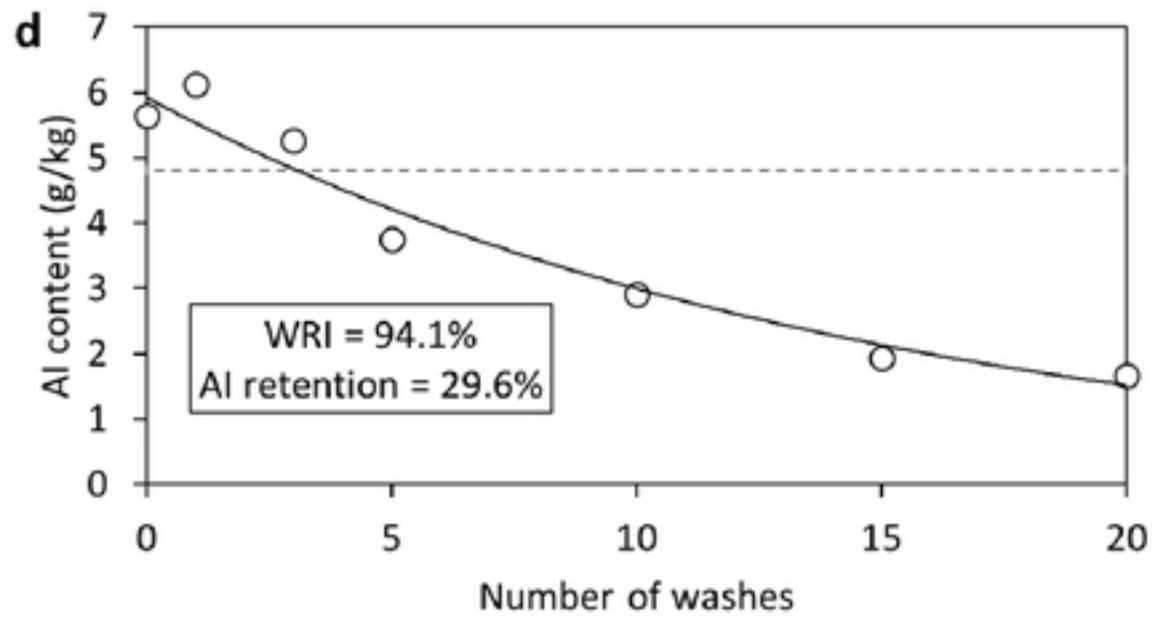
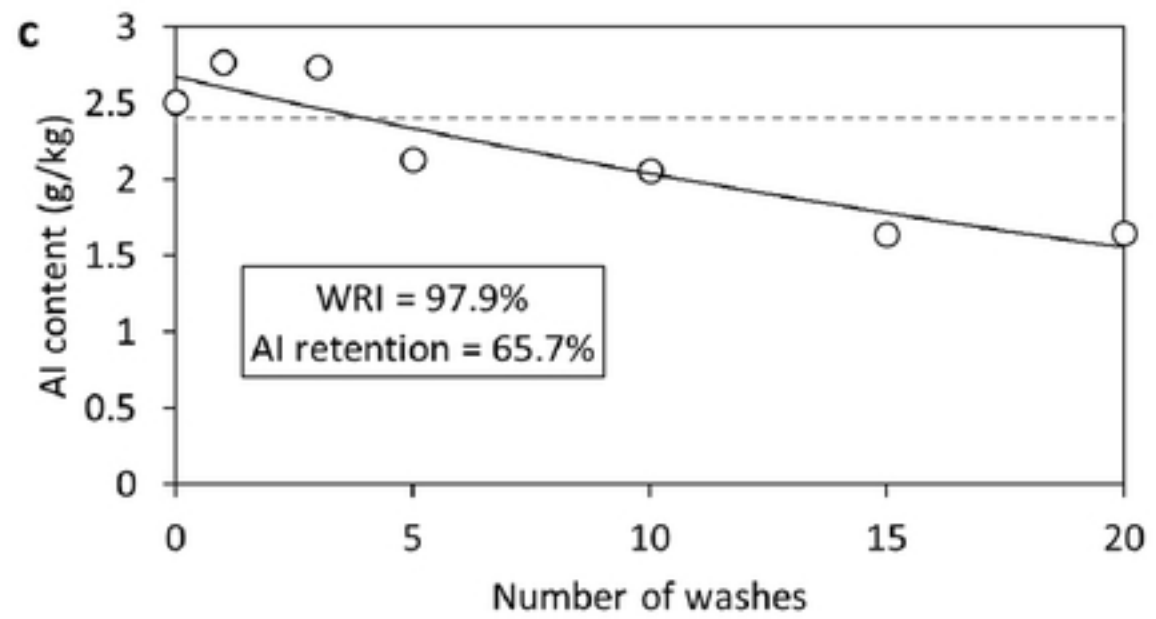
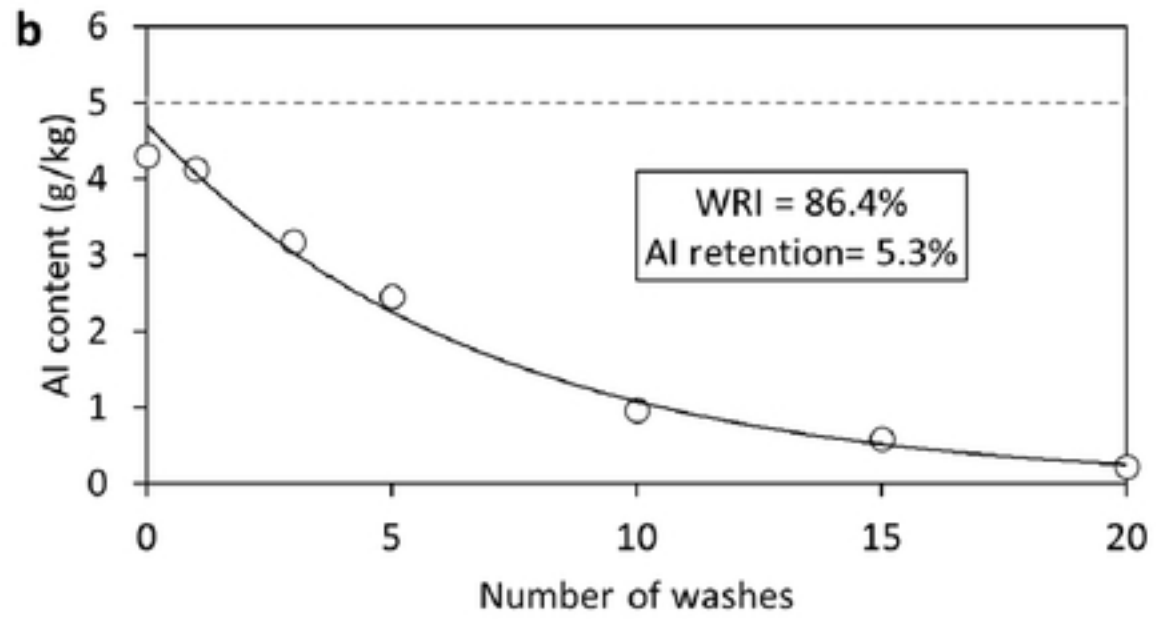
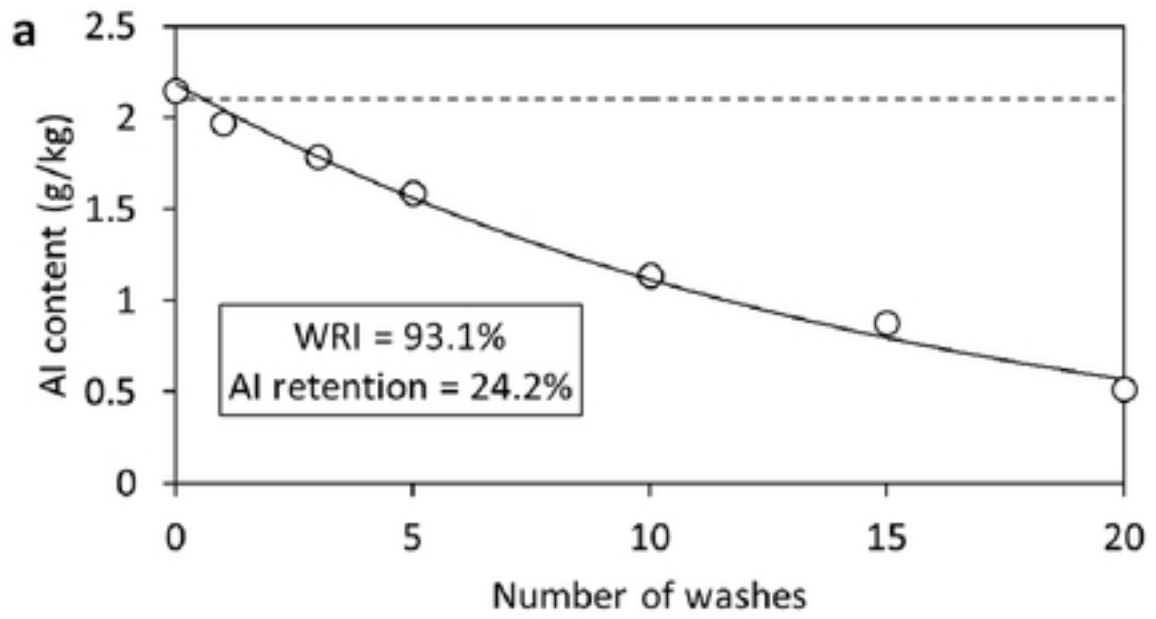
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