Hematological and biochemical parameters for Chinese rhesus macaque

Wenhai Yu¹*, Xianhui Hao²*, Fengmei Yang¹*, Jin Ma¹, Yuan Zhao¹, Yanyan Li¹, Junbin Wang¹, Hongjie Xu¹, Lixiong Chen¹, Quan Liu¹, Suqin Duan¹, Yaping Yang¹, Fen Huang²*, Zhanlong He¹*

¹ Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Kunming, PR China, ² Medical Faculty, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Kunming, PR China

*huangfen6789@163.com (FH); hzl612@126.com (ZH).

Abstract

Rhesus macaque is an important animal model in biomedical research, especially human disease, developmental, translational, and pre-clinical research. Blood physiological and biochemical parameters are important markers for physiology, pathology, and Toxicology research. However, these parameters have not been systematically reported for Chinese rhesus macaques. To characterize the reference for these parameters, this study collected 1805 Chinese rhesus macaques living in Southwestern China. A total of 24 blood physiological indexes and 27 biochemical parameters were determined. Sex and age were found to affect these parameters. In conclusion, a comprehensive and systematic reference of hematological and biochemical parameters for Chinese rhesus macaque was established in this work on the basis of a large cohort. Such reference will benefit biomedical research employing rhesus macaques as animal models.

Introduction

Nonhuman primates (NHPs), the closest animal models to humans in terms of genetics, physiology, and behavior, play a major role in current biomedical research [1, 2]. The five commonly used NHP [3] species in biomedical research are rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta) [4–6], cynomolgus macaque (Macaca fascicularis) [7, 8], African green monkey (Chlorocebus aethiops sabaeus) [9], baboon (Papio anubis) [10], and marmoset (Callithrix jacchus) [11]. Rhesus macaques share nearly 98% of their genetic homology with humans [12], and their similarities include morphology, reproductive physiological characteristics, and biochemical metabolism. They are recognized as the best and sometimes the only available experimental animals for biomedical or translational research in pharmacology and Toxicology, oncology, cardiovascular disease, reproductive medicine, zoonotic transmission, and pre-clinical studies [1, 13–17]. As the most important NHP animal model, rhesus macaques have been widely studied, and their whole-genome sequences, transcriptomes, major histocompatibility complex, and cytochrome P40 genes have been effectively distinguished.

As important markers for physiology, pathology, and Toxicology research, the blood physiological and biochemical parameters of rhesus macaques have not been characterized.
comprehensively. These markers directly reflect physical health status and are useful for clinical diagnosis [18, 19]. Although the hematological and biochemical parameters of Macaca fascicularis [20, 21], Sulawesi macaques [22], and Tonkean macaques [23] have been reported, those of Chinese rhesus macaques have been rarely investigated. Chen et al. reported the routine chemistry and hematology parameters of Chinese rhesus macaques (3–5 years old, n = 36). However, these parameters cannot accurately reflect their physical health status because the study employed a small sample size, a limited age range, and incomplete indicators [20, 23–26]. Moreover, these parameters vary in species, age, gender, environment, and pathogen infection [13, 27, 28]. Thus, a reference of blood physiological and biochemical parameters must be established for rhesus macaques, which are the most important animal models for biomedical research.

Southwestern China is a major breeding base for rhesus macaques and has a unique geographical location, thereby providing good living conditions for these animals. In this study, 1805 Chinese rhesus monkeys living in Southwestern China (1049 females and 756 males) were collected and characterized to establish an accurate reference of their hematological and biochemical parameters. A total of 24 hematological indexes and 27 biochemical parameters were measured, and the effects of sex and age were analyzed. The obtained sex- and age-based hematological and biochemical parameters are useful indicators when using rhesus macaques as an animal model.

**Materials and methods**

**Ethics statement**

The protocol of animal experimentation was approved by the Committee of Laboratory Animal Welfare and Ethics of Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College.

**Animal care**

All procedures were carried out under ketamine anesthesia by trained personnel under the supervision of veterinary staff. All efforts were made to ameliorate the welfare of the animals and minimize their suffering in accordance with the recommendations cited in “Weatherall report for the use of non-human primates.” The monkeys were housed individually in stainless steel cages measuring 8 m × 3 m × 3 m (L×W×H) in an animal room controlled at 10˚C–25˚C and 50% ± 10% relative humidity with fresh air and a 12:12 h light:dark cycle [20, 29]. They were fed with complete formula food, including corn, wheat, fish meal, bean meal, milk, sugar, and fat powder, which were produced under license number of SCXK (Yunnan) K2015-0004. They were provided with tap water and supplemented with various fresh fruits (apple and banana) and vegetables (cabbage, tomato, and carrot). The rhesus macaque farm is located in Yunnan province (longitude: 102˚36’ and latitude: 25˚3’) at 2172 m above sea level and experiences an annual average temperature of 15˚C. Toys or enrichment was provided to the study animals. At the end of the study, the animals were retained for future research.

**Animals and experimental design**

A total of 1805 healthy rhesus macaques (1049 females and 756 males) were randomly selected and obtained from the Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College. The experimental animal production license was SCXK (Yunnan) K2015-0004. Before the experiment, the health status of the monkeys was determined on the basis of history, general health, and appearance. The animals were not specific pathogen
free as they were infected with other common subclinical viral pathogens, including rhesus cytomegalovirus, simian foamy virus, rhesus monkey rhadinovirus, type D simian retrovirus, and simian T-lymphotropic virus, but they were negative for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Salmonella Typhi*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, and herpes B virus. The monkeys were divided into six groups according to age: infants group, 0–1 years old (n = 409, 247 females and 162 males); juvenile group, 1–3 years old (n = 369, 235 females and 134 males); young adults group, 4–6 years old (n = 458, 214 females and 244 males); adults group, 7–12 years old (n = 411, 283 females and 128 males); middle-aged group, 13–17 years old (n = 124, 63 females and 61 males); and elderly group, ≥18 years old (n = 34, 7 females and 27 males).

**Blood sample collection**

Rhesus macaques were anesthetized by ketamine, whose blood samples were collected by a trained veterinarian after fasting about 12 hours. Aliquots (2 mL) were stored in plastic tubes without anti-coagulants for biochemical analysis. Blood samples were allowed to clot at room temperature for 45 min. The serum was separated by centrifugation at 1600 g for 15 min and analyzed for biochemical parameters immediately. The other 2 mL aliquots were individually transferred into ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid potassium (EDTA-K2) tubes for hematological analysis [20].

**Hematological analysis**

Whole blood was collected in EDTA-K2 tubes for analysis of 24 hematological parameters using an automatic hematological analyzer (XT2000, SYSMEX, Japan). Hematological parameters studied include number of white blood cell (WBC), number of red blood cell (RBC), hemoglobin (HGB), hematocrit (HCT), platelets (PLT), mean platelet volume (MPV), platelet-crit (PCT), mean corpuscular volume (MCV), mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH), mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC), neutrophil percentage (NEUT%), monocyte percentage (MONO%), eosinophil percentage (EO%), basophilic leukocyte percentage (BASO %), lymphocyte percentage (LYMPH%), neutrophil (NEUT#), lymphocyte (LYMPH#), monocyte (MONO#), eosinophil (EO#), basophil (BASO#), red blood cell volume distribution width-SD (RDW-SD), red blood cell volume distribution width-CV (RDW-CV), plate volume distribution width (PDW), and platelet large cell ratio (P-LCR).

**Serum biochemistry analysis**

The following 27 biochemistry parameters were measured using a serum chemistry analyzer (BS-200, Mindray, China): alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), total protein (TP), albumin (ALB), globulin (GLB), albumin:globulin ratio (A/G), total bilirubin (T-BIL), direct bilirubin (D-BIL), indirect bilirubin (I-BIL), gamma glutamyl transferase (r-GT), uric acid (UA), blood urea nitrogen (UREA), creatinine (CREA), glucose (GLU), total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG), high-density lipoprotein (HDL-C), low-density lipoprotein (LDL-C), complement C3 (C3), complement C4 (C4), immunoglobulin A (IgA), immunoglobulin G (IgG), immunoglobulin M (IgM), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and iron (Fe).

**Statistical analysis**

All data were presented as means ± standard errors. A two-way unbalanced analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to examine the effects of sex, age, and sex–age interaction using SAS.
software (v6.12). The difference between male and female in each age group was analyzed by post-hoc pair-wise comparisons. P value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Hematological parameters of rhesus macaques

A total of 24 hematological parameters from 1805 healthy rhesus macaques (1049 females and 756 males) were analyzed. Interestingly, age exerted a significant effect on most hematological parameters, except MPV, PDW, and P-LCR (Table 1, Fig 1 and S1 Table). Sex and gender affect the pathophysiology, incidence, prevalence, symptoms and signs, and course and response to therapy of many diseases. The differences in the effects of sex are important in physiology and disease as they represent gender-related biological factors that may lead to enhanced prevention and therapy [30]. Significant differences were observed between females and males across all hematological parameters, except PLT (Table 1, Fig 1 and S1 Table). Age-sex interaction showed significant effects on WBC, RBC, HGB, HCT, MCV, MCH, NEUT%, LYMP%, MONO%, NEUT#, and RDW-CV (Table 1).

Biochemical parameters of rhesus macaques

Significant differences were found in the biochemical parameters of all liver enzymes by age group (Fig 2, Table 2 and S2 Table). The changes in the activities of liver enzymes in different

| Parameter | Age | Sex | Interaction |
|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|
| WBC       | F(5, 1805) = 13.06, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 4.08, P<0.05 | F(5, 1805) = 3.38, P<0.01 |
| RBC       | F(5, 1805) = 11.91, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 30.11, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 8.44, P<0.01 |
| HGB       | F(5, 1805) = 19.69, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 74.25, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 16.47, P<0.01 |
| HCT       | F(5, 1805) = 24.52, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 35.32, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 17.65, P<0.01 |
| PLT       | F(5,1805) = 19.02, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.46, NS | F(5, 1805) = 1.41, NS |
| MPV       | F(5, 1805) = 0.66, NS | F(1, 1805) = 5.05, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 1.63, NS |
| PCT       | F(5,1805) = 29.78, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 8.11, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 1.86, NS |
| MCV       | F(5, 1805) = 26.79, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.00, NS | F(5, 1805) = 5.15, P<0.01 |
| MCH       | F(5, 1805) = 8.96, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.73, NS | F(5, 1805) = 4.29, P<0.01 |
| NEUT%     | F(5, 1805) = 9.97, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 5.44, P<0.05 | F(5, 1805) = 0.80, NS |
| LYMPH%    | F(5, 1805) = 84.08, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 14.42, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 4.06, P<0.01 |
| MONO%     | F(5, 1805) = 98.09, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 15.13, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 3.83, P<0.01 |
| NEUT#     | F(5, 1805) = 84.08, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 14.42, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 4.06, P<0.01 |
| LYMPH#    | F(5, 1805) = 98.09, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 15.13, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 3.83, P<0.01 |
| MONO#     | F(5, 1805) = 98.09, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 15.13, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 3.83, P<0.01 |
| EO%       | F(5, 1805) = 19.34, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 2.16, NS | F(5, 1805) = 1.95, NS |
| BASO%     | F(5, 1805) = 46.62, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.08, NS | F(5, 1805) = 1.72, NS |
| NEUT%     | F(5, 1805) = 40.39, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 20.38, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 6.03, P<0.01 |
| LYMPH%    | F(5, 1805) = 62.31, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.04, NS | F(5, 1805) = 2.04, NS |
| MONO%     | F(5, 1805) = 9.95, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 3.09, NS | F(5, 1805) = 2.17, NS |
| EO#       | F(5, 1805) = 29.35, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 3.16, NS | F(5, 1805) = 2.19, NS |
| BASO%     | F(5, 1805) = 21.41, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 2.23, NS | F(5, 1805) = 0.34, NS |
| RDW-SD    | F(5, 1805) = 22.16, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 14.13, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 0.94, NS |
| RDW-CV    | F(5, 1805) = 5.63, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 5.41, P<0.05 | F(5, 1805) = 3.30, P<0.01 |
| PDW       | F(5, 1805) = 1.29, NS | F(1, 1805) = 8.52, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 1.99, NS |
| P-LCR     | F(5, 1805) = 1.63, NS | F(1, 1805) = 7.26, P<0.01 | F(5, 1805) = 1.9, NS |

NS: not significant

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222338.t001

Table 1. Summary of effects of age and sex on hematological parameters.
The activities of liver enzymes ALT, A/G, D-BIL, TP, ALB, and rGT were significantly different between females and males (Fig 2, Table 2 and S2 Table). A significant sex-related difference was observed in the AST activity of the juvenile, young adults, and elderly groups, whereas no significant difference was observed in the infants, adults, and middle-aged groups. A significant sex-related difference was observed in the ALT levels of the juvenile to middle-aged groups, whereas no significant difference was observed in the infants and early groups (Fig 2, Table 2 and S2 Table). Significant effects by age–sex interaction were found in all activities of liver enzymes, except rGT (Fig 2 and Table 2).

The risk of chronic kidney disease was reported to be higher in low birth weight men than in low birth weight women [32, 33]. Similar to humans, male and female rhesus macaques showed significant differences in renal function parameters, including UA and CREA. Age-related differences in the decline in renal function and injury of male and female offspring have been reported in rats [34, 35]. In the current work, the renal function of rhesus macaques was also significantly affected by age (Fig 3, Table 2 and S3 Table). Significant effects by age–sex interaction were found in all renal function parameters (Fig 3 and Table 2).

Although glucose homeostasis is regulated differently in males and females [30], GLU and TG of male and female rhesus do not significantly differ, but the opposite is true for TC (Fig 4, Table 2 and S4 Table). Sex disparities have been previously reported for LDL physicochemical properties, with men being characterized as having a higher proportion of sdLDL and greater concentrations of oxLDL than premenopausal women [36–38]. However, no significant sex-related difference was found in HDL-C and LDAL-C in the current work (Fig 4, Table 2 and S4 Table). On the contrary, significant age-related differences in GLU, TC, TG, and HDL-C were found (Fig 4, Table 2 and S4 Table). Significant effects by age–sex interaction were found in TC, TG, and HDL-C (Fig 4 and Table 2).

The complement system is an ancient and critical effector mechanism of the innate immune system as it senses, kills, and clears infectious and/or dangerous particles; it also alerts the immune system about the presence of infections and/or danger [39]. It is powerful and is composed of >30 proteins found in circulation and tissues [39]. It is the effector of immune cytolysis and other biologic functions, including anaphylaxis [40], phagocytosis [41], opsonization, and hemolysis [42]. Its background in rhesus macaques is important, especially when these animals are used as animal models. Despite the significant age-related differences in the levels of C3 and C4, no significant sex-related difference was observed (Fig 5, Table 2 and S5 Table). Significant effects by age–sex interaction were found in the level of C3 but not in the level of C4 (Fig 5 and Table 2).

Immunoglobulins (Ig), proteins of animal origin with known antibody activities, are the major components of the humoral immune response system. The H chain comes in five antigenically different types, which serve as the basis for their classification. The five major classes of Igs are IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM [43, 44]. Changes in IgG glycosylation drastically alter its function and are related to the age, sex, and disease status of an individual [45, 46]. However, as the most important animal model in biomedical research, rhesus macaques are rarely studied from the aspect of their Igs. In the present study, the Igs of rhesus macaques in a large cohort were investigated. Interestingly, the concentrations of IgA, IgG, and IgM showed a significant age-related difference among the six groups, whereas no significant sex-related
Table 2. Summary of effects of age and sex on biochemical parameters.

| Parameter | Age       | Sex         | Interaction |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 AST     | F(5, 1805) = 10.95, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.25, NS | F(5,1805) = 5.25, P<0.01 |
| 2 GLB     | F(5, 1805) = 61.25, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.81, NS | F(5,1805) = 2.68, P<0.05 |
| 3 ALT     | F(5, 1805) = 14.84, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 17.67, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 6.73, P<0.01 |
| 4 I-BIL   | F(5, 1805) = 43.18, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.08, NS | F(5,1805) = 9.65, P<0.01 |
| 5 T-BIL   | F(5, 1805) = 36.22, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.45, NS | F(5,1805) = 6.03, P<0.01 |
| 6 A/G     | F(5, 1805) = 77.12, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 8.06, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 5.52, P<0.01 |
| 7 D-BIL   | F(5, 1805) = 9.89, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 4.82, P<0.05 | F(5,1805) = 2.46, P<0.05 |
| 8 TP      | F(5, 1805) = 66.39, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 11.8, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 6.66, P<0.01 |
| 9 ALB     | F(5, 1805) = 12.79, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 14.47, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 7.82, P<0.01 |
| 10 ALP    | F(5, 1805) = 74.28, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.19, NS | F(5,1805) = 2.38, P<0.05 |
| 11 r-GT   | F(5, 1805) = 47.86, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 9.19, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 1.19, NS |
| 12 UA      | F(5, 1805) = 16.64, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 17.04, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 4.96, P<0.01 |
| 13 UREA   | F(5, 1805) = 4.74, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.05, NS | F(5,1805) = 11.25, P<0.01 |
| 14 CREA   | F(5, 1805) = 121.67, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 101.49, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 31.45, P<0.01 |
| 15 GLU     | F(5, 1805) = 58.82, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.21, NS | F(5,1805) = 1.12, NS |
| 16 TC      | F(5, 1805) = 29.31, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 7.15, P<0.01 | F(5,1805) = 3.31, P<0.01 |
| 17 TG      | F(5, 1805) = 14.97, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.67, NS | F(5,1805) = 5.69, P<0.01 |
| 18 HDL-C   | F(5, 1805) = 15.74, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.33, P = 0.25 | F(5,1805) = 14.98, P<0.01 |
| 19 LDL-C   | F(5, 1805) = 0.98, NS | F(1, 1805) = 0.00, NS | F(5,1805) = 0.82, NS |
| 20 C3      | F(5, 1805) = 84.21, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 2.87, NS | F(5,1805) = 5.32, P<0.01 |
| 21 C4      | F(5, 1805) = 6.04, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.54, NS | F(5,1805) = 1.06, NS |
| 22 IgA     | F(5, 1805) = 32.13, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 2.07, NS | F(5,1805) = 0.40, NS |
| 23 IgG     | F(5, 1805) = 94.94, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.54, NS | F(5,1805) = 4.11, P<0.01 |
| 24 IgM     | F(5, 1805) = 34.96, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.01, NS | F(5,1805) = 1.70, NS |
| 25 Ca      | F(5, 1805) = 12.77, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 0.01, NS | F(5,1805) = 3.47, P<0.01 |
| 26 Mg      | F(5, 1805) = 14.51, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 1.40, NS | F(5,1805) = 1.32, NS |
| 27 Fe      | F(5, 1805) = 19.84, P<0.01 | F(1, 1805) = 5.04, P<0.05 | F(5,1805) = 2.53, P<0.05 |

NS: not significant

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222338.t002

Discussion

NHPs are widely used in studies of human diseases because of their high similarity to humans, and thus, they largely contribute to the development of medicine and other disciplines [4, 15, 38].
NHPs (except chimpanzees) are also valuable animal models in the research on aging diseases, reproductive physiology, behavior, virology, and neurophysiology [5, 51] because of their homology with humans. Chinese rhesus macaques are the major animal models for

Fig 3. Renal function index of rhesus macaques. Represents the mean values of males and females. Two-way ANOVA was used to evaluate the effects of sex, age, and sex–age interaction. The difference between male and female in each age group was analyzed by post-hoc pair-wise comparisons. (‘, P<0.05; **, p<0.01).

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222338.g003

Fig 4. Blood glucose and blood lipid indexes of rhesus macaques. Represents the mean values of males and females. Two-way ANOVA was used to evaluate the effects of sex, age, and sex–age interaction. The difference between male and female in each age group was analyzed by post-hoc pair-wise comparisons. (‘, P<0.05; **, p<0.01).

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222338.g004
biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and medical research worldwide, and China has become one of the major breeders and suppliers of rhesus macaques used for biomedical research.

Hematological and biochemical parameters are important indicators in biology and medical research. They are used to judge the health status of animals and thus provide important

---

**Fig 5. Complement and immunoglobulin index of rhesus macaques.** Represents the mean values of males and females. Two-way ANOVA was used to evaluate the effects of sex, age, and sex–age interaction. The difference between male and female in each age group was analyzed by post-hoc pair-wise comparisons. (*, \( P < 0.05 \); **, \( P < 0.01 \)).

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222338.g005

---

**Fig 6. Ion/Electrolyte indexes of rhesus macaques.** Represents the mean values of males and females. Two-way ANOVA was used to evaluate the effects of sex, age, and sex–age interaction. The difference between male and female in each age group was analyzed by post-hoc pair-wise comparisons. (*, \( P < 0.05 \); **, \( P < 0.01 \)).

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222338.g006
references in the study of pathology and toxicology and directly and indirectly reflect organ functions [21, 27, 52]. In recent years, as an important animal model, Chinese rhesus macaques have been increasingly used for biomedical research, including disease development, establishment of transgenic animals and stem cells, construction of animal models of diseases, and pre-clinical investigations [53–56]. However, comprehensive and systematic reference ranges of their blood physiological and biochemical parameters have not been established yet.

In this study, blood hematological and biochemical parameters from a large cohort of Chinese rhesus macaques (n = 1805) were analyzed on the basis of gender and age. All age ranges (infants, juvenile, young adults, adults, middle-aged, and elderly) were covered in the study. As the sample size employed was large, the study was able to establish the most suitable reference values per age group. Moreover, some parameters that have never been reported, such as IgG, IgM, and IgA, were evaluated in this study. Therefore, the developed reference ranges of blood hematological and biochemical parameters are comprehensive and accurate. In addition, the effects of the interaction of age and sex on these blood indexes were analyzed. Thus, a differential analysis between females and males or among different age groups must be conducted when using Chinese rhesus macaques as an experimental animal model.

Blood hematological and biochemical parameters varied in different species. Some parameters of Chinese rhesus macaques differed from those of other monkeys. For example, the parameters WBC and RBC of Chinese rhesus macaques are consistent with those of Japanese monkeys [57] and cynomolgus monkeys [58], but PLT in Chinese rhesus macaques is higher than that in *Macaca mulatta* [31]. In addition, living conditions and geographical origins contribute to the differences. For example, the levels of WBC, RBC, HGB, HCT, and PLT in rhesus macaques imported from China to Japan [57] are lower than those in rhesus macaques living in Southwestern China.

**Supporting information**

S1 Table. Hematological parameters of rhesus macaques.

S2 Table. Liver enzymes activities of rhesus macaques.

S3 Table. Renal function index of rhesus macaques.

S4 Table. Blood glucose and blood lipid index of rhesus macaques.

S5 Table. Immunoglobulin and complement index of rhesus macaques.

S6 Table. Ion/Electrolyte indexes of rhesus macaques.

**Acknowledgments**

This study was supported by PUMC young Fund (3332019008 and 2017310038), Natural Science Foundation of Yunnan province to (2018FB132), the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (2016ZX310179-3 and 2016ZX310179-4), and CAMS Innovation Fund for Medical Sciences (2019-I2M-1-004, 2018-I2M-3-002 and 2016-I2M-2-1-001).
Author Contributions
Conceptualization: Wenhai Yu, Zhanlong He.
Data curation: Wenhai Yu, Fengmei Yang.
Formal analysis: Wenhai Yu, Xianhui Hao.
Funding acquisition: Wenhai Yu, Fengmei Yang, Yuan Zhao, Zhanlong He.
Investigation: Wenhai Yu.
Methodology: Wenhai Yu, Fengmei Yang.
Project administration: Wenhai Yu, Xinhui Hao, Fengmei Yang, Jin Ma, Yuan Zhao, Yan-yan Li, Junbin Wang, Hongjie Xu, Lixiong Chen, Quan Liu, Suqin Duan, Yaping Yang.
Resources: Wenhai Yu, Fengmei Yang.
Software: Wenhai Yu, Xianhui Hao.
Supervision: Zhanlong He.
Visualization: Zhanlong He.
Writing – original draft: Wenhai Yu, Xianhui Hao.
Writing – review & editing: Fen Huang.

References
1. Heald AE, Charleston JS, Iversen PL, Warren TK, Saoud JB, Al-Ibrahim M, et al. AVI-7288 for Marburg Virus in Nonhuman Primates and Humans. The New England journal of medicine. 2015; 373(4):339–48. Epub 2015/07/23. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1410345 PMID: 26200980.
2. Davey RT Jr, Dodd L, Proschlan MA, Neaton J, Neuhaus Nordwall J, Koopmeiners JS, et al. A Randomized, Controlled Trial of ZMapp for Ebola Virus Infection. The New England journal of medicine. 2016; 375(15):1448–56. Epub 2016/10/13. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1604330 PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5086427. PMID: 27732819
3. Harding JD. Genomic Tools for the Use of Nonhuman Primates in Translational Research. ILAR journal. 2017; 58(1):59–68. Epub 2017/08/26. https://doi.org/10.1093/ilar/ilw042 PMID: 28838069.
4. Coleman K, Pierre PJ. Assessing anxiety in nonhuman primates. ILAR journal. 2014; 55(2):333–46. Epub 2014/09/17. https://doi.org/10.1093/ilar/iliu019 PMID: 25225310; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4240439.
5. Moody DB, Stebbins WC, Hawkins JE Jr, Johnsson LG. Hearing loss and cochlear pathology in the monkey (Macaca) following exposure to high levels of noise. Archives of oto-rhino-laryngology. 1978; 220(1–2):47–72. Epub 1978/03/03. PMID: 417707.
6. Pennisi E. Boom time for monkey research. Science (New York, NY). 2007; 316(5822):216–8. Epub 2007/04/14. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.316.5822.216 PMID: 17431165.
7. Antony JM, MacDonald KS. A critical analysis of the cynomolgus macaque, Macaca fascicularis, as a model to test HIV-1/SIV vaccine efficacy. Vaccine. 2015; 33(27):3073–83. Epub 2014/12/17. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2014.12.004 PMID: 25510387.
8. Kuiken T, Buiks P, van Run P, van Amerongen G, Koopmans M, van den Hoogen B. Pigeon paramyxovirus type 1 from a fatal human case induces pneumonia in experimentally infected cynomolgus macaques (Macaca fascicularis). Veterinary research. 2017; 48(1):80. Epub 2017/11/23. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13571-017-0486-6 PMID: 29162154; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5697235.
9. Schmitt CA, Service SK, Jasinska AJ, Dyer TD, Jorgensen MJ, Cantor RM, et al. Obesity and obesogenic growth are both highly heritable and modified by diet in a nonhuman primate model, the African green monkey (Chlorocebus aethiops sabaeus). International journal of obesity (2005). 2017. Epub 2017/12/07. https://doi.org/10.1038/ijo.2017.301 PMID: 29211707.
10. Eastman AJ, Bergin IL, Chai D, Bassis CM, LeBar W, Oluoch GO, et al. Impact of the Levonorgestrel-Releasing Intrauterine System on the Progression of Chlamydia trachomatis Infection to Pelvic Inflammatory Disease in a Baboon Model. The Journal of infectious diseases. 2017. Epub 2017/12/19. https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jix545 PMID: 29232601.
21. Perretta G, Violante A, Scarpulla M, Beciani M, Monaco V. Normal serum biochemical and hematological parameters for rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta), and its relation to oxidative stress. Experimental gerontology. 2017; 101:80–94. Epub 2017/11/18. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exger.2017.11.003 PMID: 29146745.

22. Xie L, Xu F, Liu S, Ji Y, Zhou Q, Wu Q, et al. Age- and sex-based hematological and biochemical parameters for rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta). Journal of medical primatology. 1995; 24(1):17–28. Epub 1995/01/01. PMID: 7563007.

23. Thierry B, Andre E, Imbs P. Hematologic and plasma biochemical values for Tonkean macaque (Macaca tonkeana). Journal of zoo and wildlife medicine: official publication of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. 2000; 31(2):179–84. Epub 2000/09/12. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1399-3089.2000.00554.x PMID: 10982129.

24. Lee JI, Shin JS, Lee JE, Jung WY, Lee G, Kim MS, et al. Reference values of hematologic, chemistry, electrolytes, blood gas, coagulation time, and urinalysis in the Chinese rhesus macaques (Macaca mulatta). Xenotransplantation. 2012; 19(4):244–8. Epub 2012/08/23. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1399-3089.2012.00713.x PMID: 22909137.

25. Goodrich JA, Ward GS, Swindle MM. Normal serum biochemical and hematological values of the Sula-Wesi macaques. Journal of medical primatology. 1995; 24(1):17–28. Epub 1995/01/01. PMID: 7963007.

26. Chen Y, Qin S, Ding Y, Wei L, Zhang J, Li H, et al. Reference values of clinical chemistry and hematology parameters in rhesus monkeys (Macaca mulatta). Xenotransplantation. 2009; 16(6):496–501. Epub 2010/01/01. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1399-3089.2009.00554.x PMID: 20042049.

27. Redberger S, Fischer S, Kohler H, Diller R, Reinhold P. Age-dependent physiological dynamics in acid-base balance, electrolytes, and blood metabolites in growing goats. Veterinary journal (London, England: 1997). 2017; 229:45–52. Epub 2017/12/01. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2017.10.017 PMID: 29183573.
28. Shen G, Tian JD, Guo XB, Wang H, F, Lu JQ. Hemogram and Blood Biochemical parameters of Taihangshan in Jiuyan, Chian. Sichuan Journal of Zoolgy. 2011; 30(2):254–7.

29. Dai JJ, Tang D, H, Lu SY, Kuang DX, Yang F, Cheng SJ, et al. Clinica normal value of hematology and serum biochemistry in domestically bred and reared rhesus moneky Acta laboratorium scientia sinica. 2000; 8(4):224–30.

30. Mauvais-Jarvis F. Gender differences in glucose homeostasis and diabetes. Physiology & behavior. 2018; 187:20–3. Epub 2017/08/28. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2017.08.016 PMID: 28843891; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5826763.

31. Wang Z, Li C, Liu Z, Lu Z, Liu Y, Mei QB, et al. Some Indexes of Physiology,Hematology,Serum Biochemistry,Immunology in Macaca Mulatto Monkeys Progress in Veterinary Medicine. 2005; 26(8):68–71.

32. Hallan S, Euser AM, Ingens LM, Finken MJ, Holmen J, Dekker FW. Effect of intrauterine growth restriction on kidney function at young adult age: the Nord Trondelag Health (HUNT 2) Study. American journal of kidney diseases: the official journal of the National Kidney Foundation. 2008; 51(1):10–20. Epub 2007/12/25. https://doi.org/10.1053/j.jkd.2007.09.013 PMID: 18155528.

33. Li S, Chen SC, Shipak M, Bakris G, McCullough PA, Sowers J, et al. Low birth weight is associated with chronic kidney disease only in men. Kidney international. 2008; 73(5):637–42. Epub 2007/12/21. https://doi.org/10.1038/sj.ki.5002747 PMID: 18094674.

34. Nikiila M, Pitkajarvi T, Koivula T, Solakivi T, Lehtimaki T, Laippala P, et al. Women have a larger and less atherogenic low density lipoprotein particle size than men. Atherosclerosis. 1996; 119(2):181–90. Epub 1996/01/26. https://doi.org/10.1016/0021-9150(95)05645-9 PMID: 8808495.

35. Miller AA, De Silva TM, Jackman KA, Sobey CG. Effect of gender and sex hormones on vascular oxidative stress. Clinical and experimental pharmacology & physiology. 2007; 34(10):1037–43. Epub 2007/08/24. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1440-1681.2007.04732.x PMID: 17714091.

36. Lernieux I, Pascoat A, Lamarche B, Prud’homme D, Nadeau A, Bergeron J, et al. Is the gender difference in LDL size explained by the metabolic complications of visceral obesity? European journal of clinical investigation. 2002; 32(12):909–17. Epub 2003/01/22. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2362.2002.01092.x PMID: 12534450.

37. Clarke EV, Tenner AJ. Complement modulation of T cell immune responses during homeostasis and disease. Journal of leukocyte biology. 2014; 96(5):745–56. Epub 2014/09/12. https://doi.org/10.1189/jlb.3MR0214-109R PMID: 25210145; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4197570.

38. Finkelman FD, Khodoun MV, Strait R. Human IgE-independent systemic anaphylaxis. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology. 2016; 137(6):1674–80. Epub 2016/05/01. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2016.02.015 PMID: 27130857.

39. Martin M, Blom AM. Complement in removal of the dead—balancing inflammation. Immunological reviews. 2016; 274(1):218–32. Epub 2016/10/27. https://doi.org/10.1111/imr.12462 PMID: 27782329.

40. Wouters D, Zeerleder S. Complement inhibitors to treat IgM-mediated autoimmune hemolysis. Haematologica. 2015; 100(1):1388–95. Epub 2015/11/02. https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2015.129538 PMID: 26521297; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4825292.

41. Arnold JN, Dwek RA, Rudd PM, Sim RB. Mannan binding lectin and its interaction with immunoglobulins in health and in disease. Immunology letters. 2006; 106(2):103–10. Epub 2006/07/04. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.imlet.2006.05.007 PMID: 16814399.

42. Loh RK, Vale S, Mclean-Tooke A. Quantitative serum immunoglobulin tests. Australian family physician. 2013; 42(4):195–8. Epub 2013/04/04. PMID: 23550242.

43. Pucic M, Muzinic A, Novokmet M, Skledar M, Pivac N, Lauc G, et al. Changes in plasma and IgG N-glycome during childhood and adolescence. Glycobiochemistry. 2012; 22(7):975–82. Epub 2012/03/20. https://doi.org/10.1093/glycob/cws052 PMID: 22426998.

44. Kristic J, Vuckovic F, Menni C, Klaric L, Kesar T, Becceheli I, et al. Glycans are a novel biomarker of chronological and biological ages. The journals of gerontology Series A, Biological sciences and medical sciences. 2014; 69(7):779–89. Epub 2013/12/12. https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/glt190 PMID: 24325898; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4049143.
47. Khalil R, Kim NR, Jardi F, Vanderschueren D, Claessens F, Decallonne B. Sex steroids and the kidney: role in renal calcium and phosphate handling. Mol Cell Endocrinol. 2018; 465:61–72. Epub 2017 Nov 16. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mce.2017.11.011 PMID: 29155307.

48. Buchi SJ, Howard B. Hematologic and serum biochemical and electrolyte values in clinically normal domestically bred rhesus monkeys (Macaca mulatta) according to age, sex, and gravidity. Laboratory animal science. 1997; 47(5):528–33. Epub 1997/11/14. PMID: 9355097.

49. Sato A, Fairbanks LA, Lawson T, Lawson GW. Effects of age and sex on hematologic and serum biochemical values of vervet monkeys (Chlorocebus aethiops sabaues). Contemporary topics in laboratory animal science. 2005; 44(1):29–34. Epub 2005/02/09. PMID: 15697196.

50. Berger M, Calapai A, Stephan V, Niessing M, Burchardt L, Gail A, et al. Standardized automated training of rhesus monkeys for neuroscience research in their housing environment. Journal of neurophysiology. 2017:jn.00614.2017. Epub 2017/11/17. https://doi.org/10.1152/jn.00614.2017 PMID: 29142094.

51. Hauser SN, Burton JA, Mercer ET, Ramachandran R. Effects of noise overexposure on tone detection in noise in nonhuman primates. Hearing research. 2017; 357:33–45. Epub 2017/11/28. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heares.2017.11.004 PMID: 29175767.

52. Jardim Paz MFC, Junior ALG, Islam MT, Tabrez S, Jabir NR, Alam MZ, et al. Assessment of chemotherapy on various biochemical markers in breast cancer patients. Journal of cellular biochemistry. 2017. Epub 2017/11/10. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcb.26487 PMID: 29120088.

53. John WS, Martin TJ, Solingapuram Sai KK, Nader SH, Gage HD, Mintz A, et al. CHRONIC Delta9-THC IN Rhesus Monkeys: EFFECTS ON COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE AND DOPAMINE D2/D3 RECEPTOR AVAILABILITY. The Journal of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics. 2017. Epub 2017/12/06. https://doi.org/10.1124/jpet.117.244194 PMID: 29203575.

54. Kodihalli S, Emanuel A, Takla T, Hua Y, Hobbs C, LeClaire R, et al. Therapeutic efficacy of equine botulism antitoxin in Rhesus macaques. PloS one. 2017; 12(11):e0186892. Epub 2017/11/23. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0186892 PMID: 29166654.

55. Huang F, Li Y, Yu W, Jing S, Wang J, Long F, et al. Excretion of infectious hepatitis E virus into milk in cows imposes high risks of zoonosis. Hepatology. 2016; 64(2):350–9. Epub 2016/06/12. https://doi.org/10.1002/hep.28668 PMID: 27286751.

56. Zhao T, Zhang Z, Zhang Y, Feng M, Fan S, Wang L, et al. Dynamic Interaction of Enterovirus 71 and Dendritic Cells in Infected Neonatal Rhesus Macaques. Frontiers in cellular and infection microbiology. 2017; 7:171. Epub 2017/05/26. https://doi.org/10.3389/fcimb.2017.00171 PMID: 28540257; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5423916.

57. Kimura T, Koike T, Matsunaga T, Sazi T, Hiroe T, Kubota M. Evaluation of a medetomidine-midazolam combination for immobilizing and sedating Japanese monkeys (Macaca fuscata). Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science: JAALAS. 2007; 46(4):33–8. Epub 2007/07/25. PMID: 17648293.

58. Koga T, Kanefuji K, Nakama K. Individual reference intervals of hematological and serum biochemical parameters in cynomolgus monkeys. International journal of toxicology. 2005; 24(5):377–85. Epub 2005/11/01. https://doi.org/10.1080/10915810500208058 PMID: 16257857.