Fig. a. Pilot study and power calculation. A pilot study was conducted to compare the wound healing rate with or without tibial cortex transverse transport (TTT) treatment. a) The mean healing rate of TTT group was faster than that of the control group (71.23% (standard deviation (SD) 4.98%) in TTT group vs 60.54% (SD 6.15%) in control group). b) Power calculation performed based on the pilot study data. With a probability of 90% and p value < 0.05, we estimated the sample size as six rats per group (shown in red highlight).