**SDC 1**



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**SDC 1 - Figure 1. Ang II serum levels measured in aliskiren** (n=7)**, VEH** (n=9) **and candesartan** (n=6) **treated animals**. Ang II level in the serum was significantly reduced in the aliskiren treated animals (\**P*<0.05 vs. VEH), whereas it was significantly higher in the candesartan treated rats compared to vehicle group (#*P*<0.01 vs. VEH).