



Fig. S1: Stable heart rate despite high inspiratory pressures during mechanical ventilation. A: Heart rate (HR) in mice during 7 h of pressure unlimited mechanical ventilation (series_1). Data are shown as mean from groups 10 cmH₂O (p10), 24 cmH₂O (p24), 27 cmH₂O (p27) and 30 cmH₂O (p30); n = 5-6. **B:** Heart rate in mice during 7 h of pressure-limited mechanical ventilation (series_2). Animals randomly received dexamethasone (D,

1mg/kg i.v.) directly after start of mechanical ventilation including pressure release valve (I, p_{plat}^{max} 34 cmH₂O). Data are shown as mean from groups 10 cmH₂O (p10), 24 cmH₂O (p24 I), 24 cmH₂O + dexamethasone (p24 I D), 27 cmH₂O (p27 I), 27 cmH₂O + dexamethasone (p27 I D), 30 cmH₂O (p30 I) and 30 cmH₂O + dexamethasone (p30 I D); p10: n = 6, p24 I: n = 6, p24 I D: n = 6, p27 I: n = 7, p27 I D: n = 6, p30 I: n = 6, p30 I D: n = 6.