

**Tab. S3: Survival proportions of mice during 7 h of pressure-limited mechanical ventilation (series\_2).**

Mice were ventilated with 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O (p10), 24 cmH<sub>2</sub>O (p24 I), 27 cmH<sub>2</sub>O (p27 I) or 30 cmH<sub>2</sub>O (p30 I) including pressure release valve (I,  $p_{\text{plat}}^{\text{max}}$  34 cmH<sub>2</sub>O) for 7 h (or until death). Animals randomly received dexamethasone (D, 1mg/kg i.v.) directly after start of mechanical ventilation.

Treat	Total	Failed	Censored	Censored [%]	Mean survival [min]	Standard error
p10	6	0	6	100.00		
p24 I	6	0	6	100.00		
p24 I D	6	0	6	100.00		
p27 I	7	7	0	0.00	372.714	10.136
p27 I D	6	3	3	50.00	410.000	4.975
p30 I	6	3	3	50.00	366.167	14.573
p30 I D	6	5	1	16.67	343.000	19.030