**Supplemental Digital Content 14**



**Figure 6S:** Lung morphometry. Box plot of the fractional area of alveolar collapse. All values were computed in 10 random, non-coincident fields of view per rat. NO-NV: healthy non-operated and non-ventilated controls; Low-VT/Moderate-PEEP/RM-, VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 3 cmH2O and no RMs; Low-VT/Moderate-PEEP/4RM+, VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 3 cmH2O and RMs before laparotomy and every 1 hour thereafter; Low-VT/High-PEEP/RM-, VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 6 cmH2O and no RMs; Low-VT/High-PEEP/1RM+, VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 6 cmH2O and RMs before laparotomy. Values represent medians and whiskers represent the 10-90 percentile range of 5 animals in each group. Student’s *t*-test was used for comparison of groups with the same PEEP and with or without RMs.