**Supplemental Digital Content 16**

**Supplemental Figure 8:** Expression of biological markers. Real-time polymerase chain reaction analysis of biological markers associated with alveolar overdistension (amphiregulin), fibrogenesis (type III procollagen, PCIII), damage inflicted on alveolar type I epithelial cells (receptor for advanced glycation end products, RAGE), and endothelial cell damage (vascular cell adhesion molecule, VCAM-1). Relative gene expression was calculated as a ratio of the average gene expression levels compared with the reference gene (*36B4*) and expressed as fold change relative to healthy non-operated and non-ventilated controls (NO-NV). 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.