

TABLE 1. Mean values and 95% confidence intervals for the differences in airway resistance (dRaw), tissue elastance (dH) and the natural logarithm of the number of crackles (dln(NC)) following methacholine administrations while a PEEP of 1 or 4 hPa was maintained

			M5	M10	M20	M40
dRaw (cmH ₂ O·s·l ⁻¹)	PEEP 4	Mean	0.038	0.321	1.49	4.93
		95% CI	3.0	3.65	3.90	4.15
		p	0.95	0.72	0.13	<0.0001
	PEEP 1	Mean	0.367	1.41	7.35	22.1
		95% CI	11.0	13.2	14.2	15.2
		p	0.89	0.66	0.043	<0.0001
dH (cmH ₂ O·l ⁻¹)	PEEP 4	Mean	-2.27	-1.25	3.23	21.3
		95% CI	18.9	24.8	28.2	31.4
		p	0.56	0.83	0.64	0.0043
	PEEP 1	Mean	0.914	0.868	23.3	52.2
		95% CI	37.6	49.4	56.2	63.3
		p	0.92	0.94	0.10	0.0003
dln(NC)	PEEP4	Mean	4.78	5.37	5.89	7.78
		95% CI	7.74	10.7	12.84	14.9
		p	0.018	0.049	0.040	0.041
	PEEP1	Mean	0.04	0.23	0.57	1.89
		95% CI	0.60	0.84	1.02	1.21
		p	0.79	0.25	0.029	<0.0001

M5–M40: methacholine doses of 5–40 µg·kg⁻¹.