Additional Fig. 2 Histopathologic analysis – HE staining

Mice were mechanically ventilated for 4h with either low tidal volume (LV$_T$ 9 ml/kg) or high tidal volume (HV$_T$ 34 ml/kg) and an inspiratory : expiratory ratio of 1:2 or 1:1, respectively. An alternative endpoint was defined as dropping of mean arterial blood pressure below 40 mmHg, which predicts death with certainty in this model. Controls (ctr) were subjected to LV$_T$ 1:2 ventilation only during operation and were sacrificed before the 4h ventilation protocol started. Paraffin-embedded lung sections were stained with hematotoxilin and eosin. While ctr. and LV$_T$ groups exhibited no signs of lung injury, HV$_T$ 1:2 and 1:1 led to severe leukocyte infiltration of the alveolar wall and tissue collapse, indicative of marked injury to the alveolar walls. Representative images from each group (n=4 each) are shown.