

	non-B group	Group B	p-value
	n=19	n=11	
Cell Numbers in tracheal aspirate fluid ($10^4/\mu\text{l}$)	46(12–398)	78(18–336)	ns
Large CD68(+) cells in tracheal aspirate fluid	14(82%)	3(27%)	<0.01
IL-1 β (pg/ml)	49.6(0–3160)	108.9(4.9–2201.5)	ns
IL-6 (pg/ml)	19.1(0–1022.8)	27.0(6.8–300.4)	ns
MMP-9 (ng/ml)	25.5(0.73–405)	67.1(0.83–385)	ns
Desmosine (ng/ml)	3.3(0.12–91.4)	8.6(0.31–60.3)	ns
IL-10 (pg/ml)	Below Detection Sensitivity	Below Detection Sensitivity	
MMP-9/IL-6 (ng/pg)	0.24(0–5.1)	2.7(0.03–9.8)	<0.01
Desmosine/IL-6(ng/pg)	0.03(0–0.22)	0.25(0.01–1.8)	<0.001