**ADDITIONAL FILE 2**

**Criteria used for histopathological analysis**

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| Classification | Histological characterization after staining with HE and meaning | References |
| Degeneration | Cellular swelling, hypereosinophilia, vacuolization, fibre fragmentation and rupture. | [5,6] |
| Necrosis | Presence of infiltrating inflammatory cells (myophagocytosis), fragmented sarcoplasm, dark coloured (hyper-laid fibres) and pale coloured (necrotic fibres) fibres. | [5,6] |
| Muscle atrophy | Reduction of myofiber diameter and hypereosinophilic sarcoplasm. | [5,6] |
| Inflammation | Presence of Polymorphonuclear neutrophilic (PMN), leukocyte and/or infiltrated leucocytes with varying morphological patterns | [6,7] |
| Regeneration | Fibres with centralized nucleus myocytes; Basophilic staining (active regeneration). | [5,6] |
| Fibrosis | Increased number of reactive fibroblasts with prominent vesiculated nuclei; Increased amount of pale eosinophilic fibrillary material (collagen deposition) separating and / or surrounds adjacent myofibers. | [8] |