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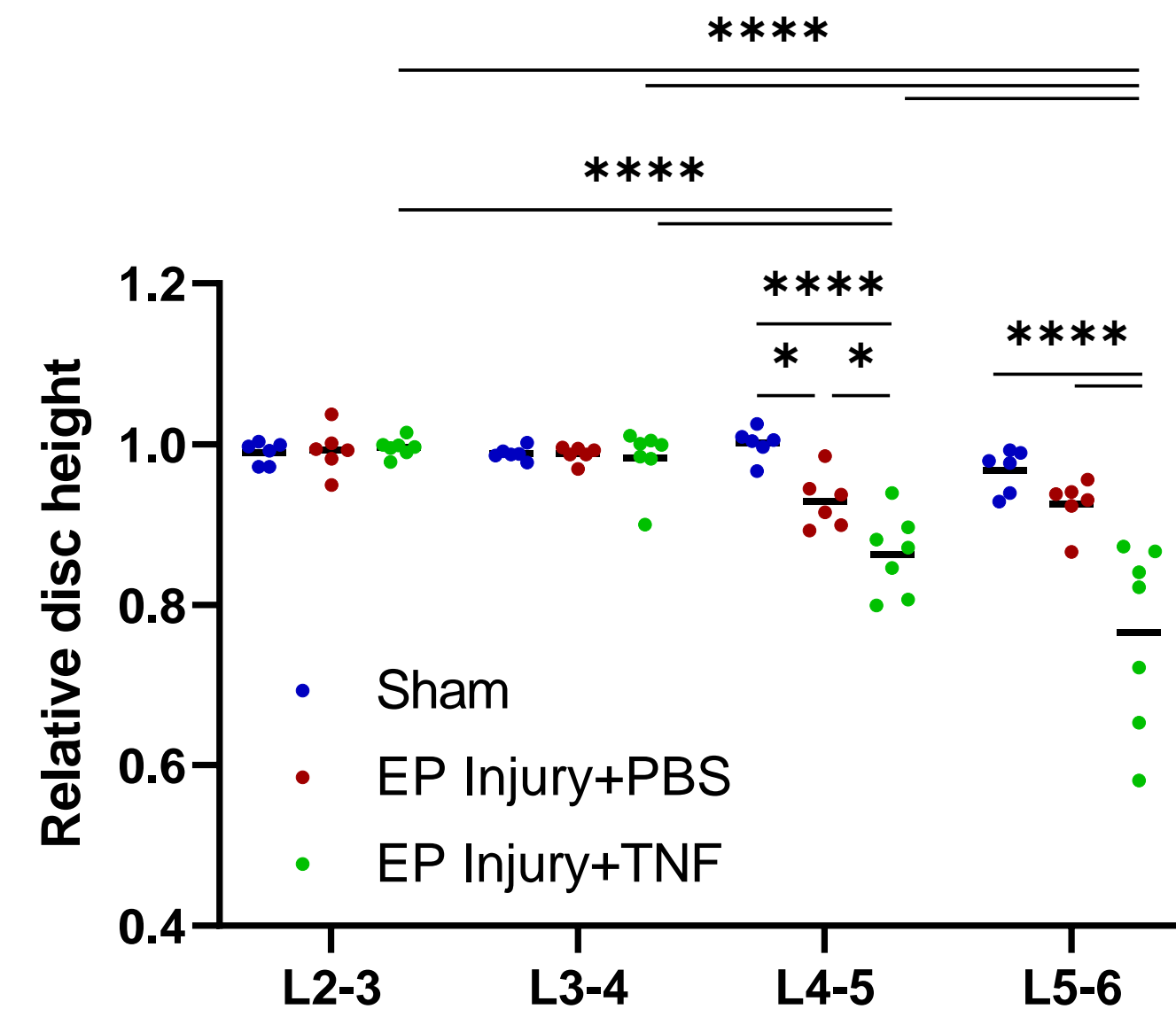
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18 **Supplementary Figure 1:** IVD height measured from Faxitron images showing effects  
19 of level. L2-3 and L3-4 were uninjured while L4-5 and L5-6 were injured levels. \* and  
20 \*\*\*\* indicate significant differences with  $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.0001$  respectively.

21 **Supplementary Figure 2:** Hematoxylin and Eosin staining of IVDs showing  
22 disruption of IVD structure and inflammatory cell invasion into the IVD in both  
23 EP+PBS and EP+TNF injury groups.

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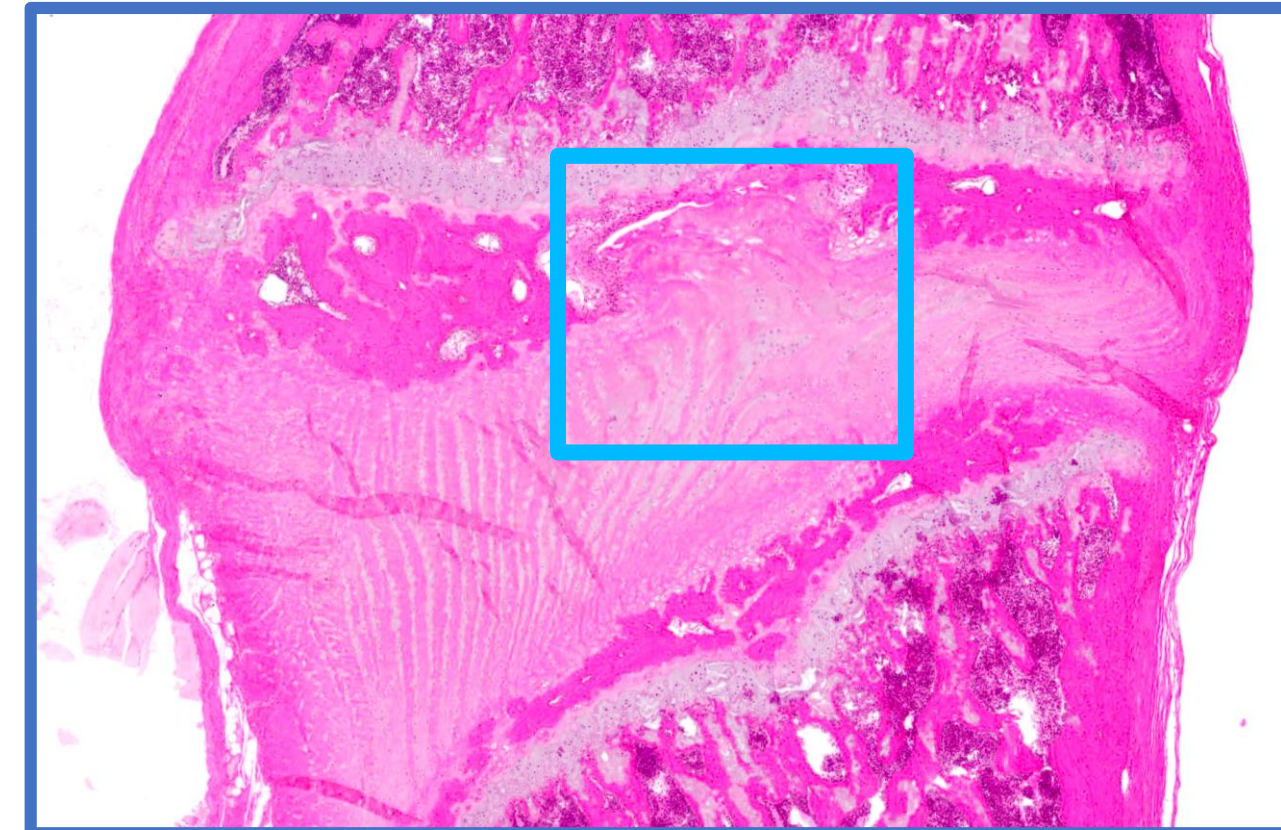
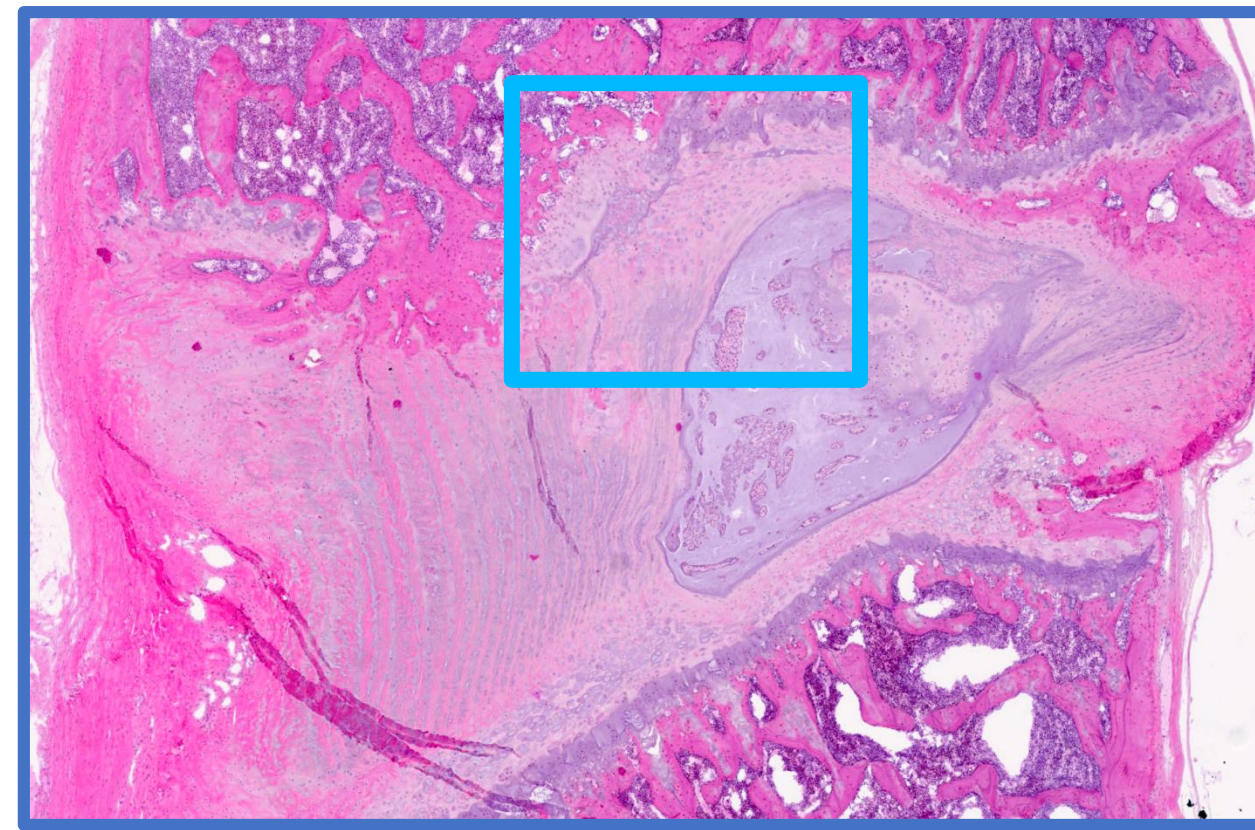
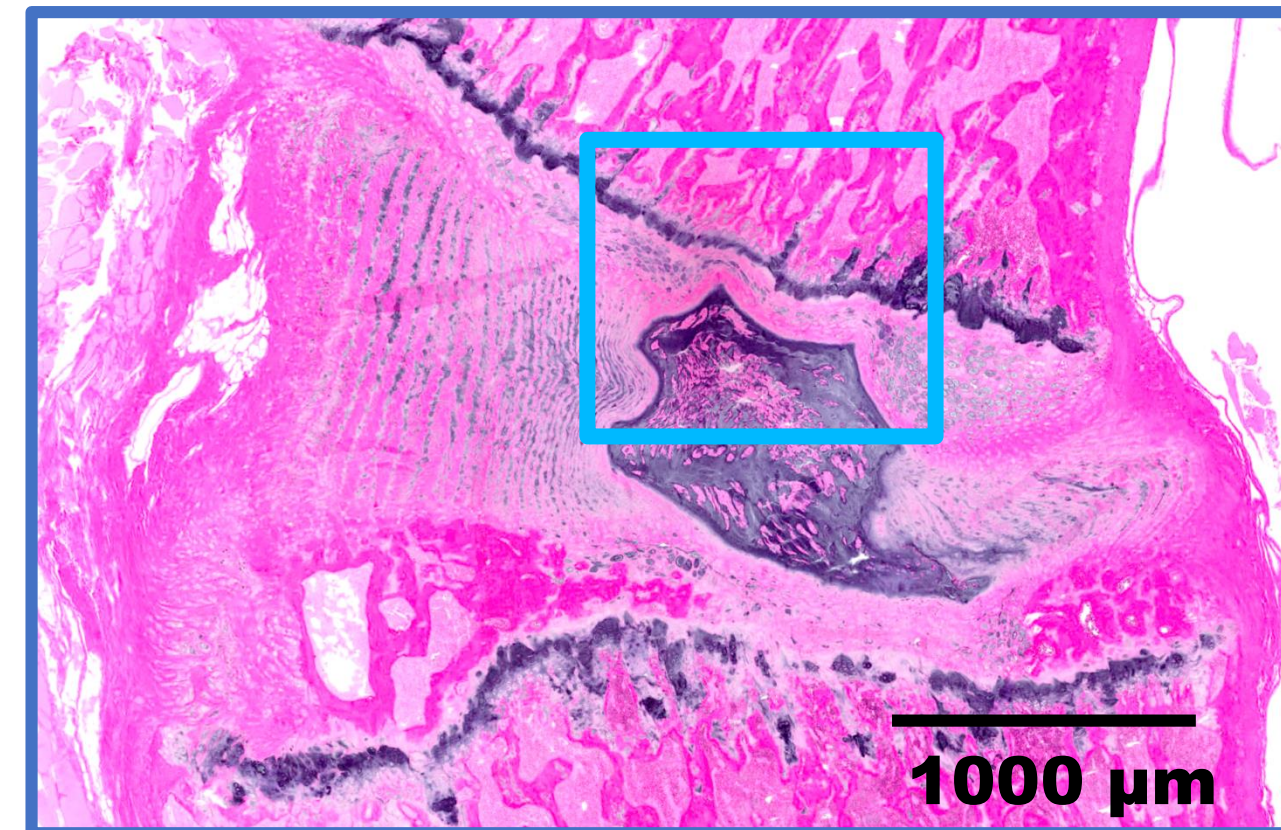
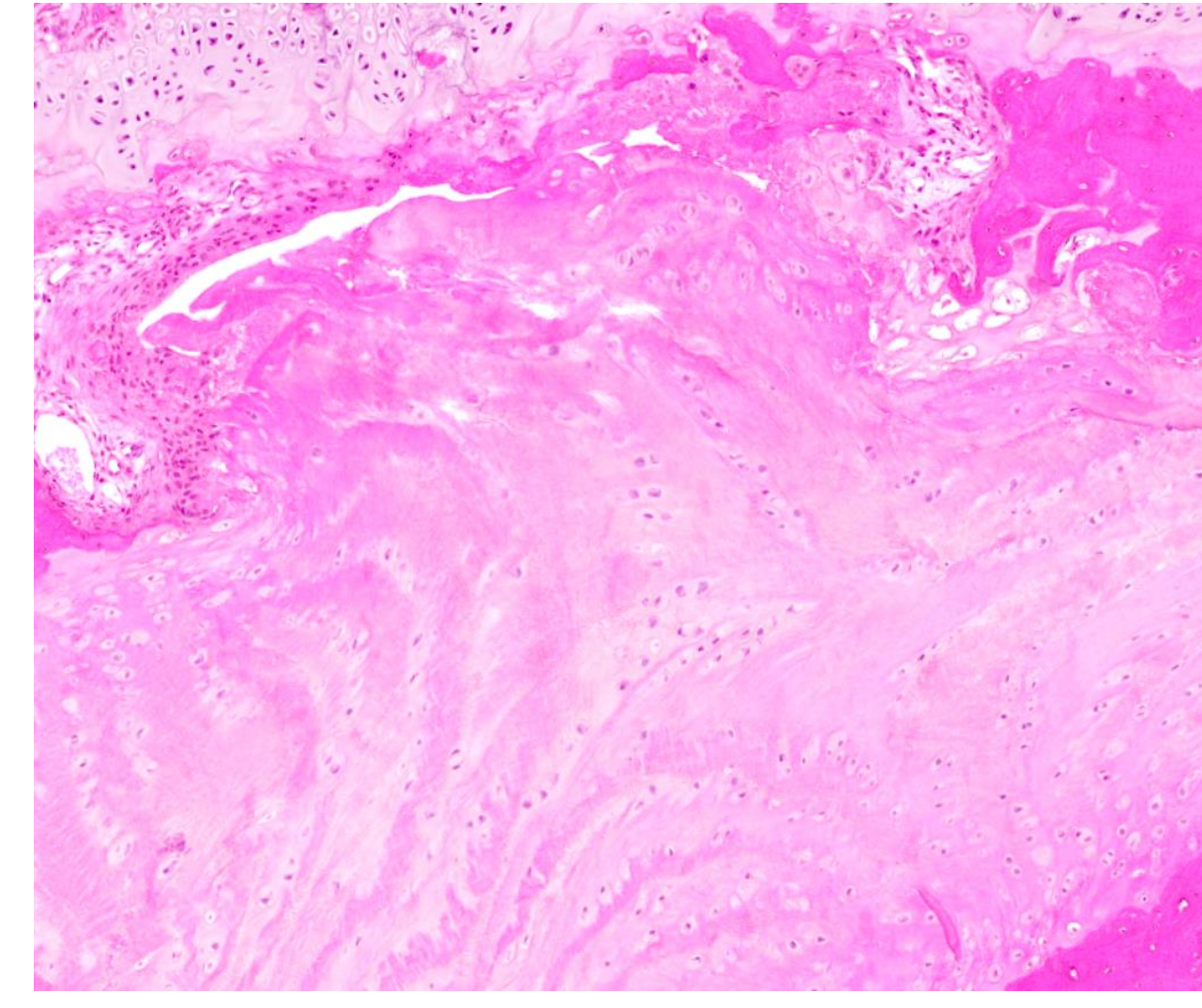
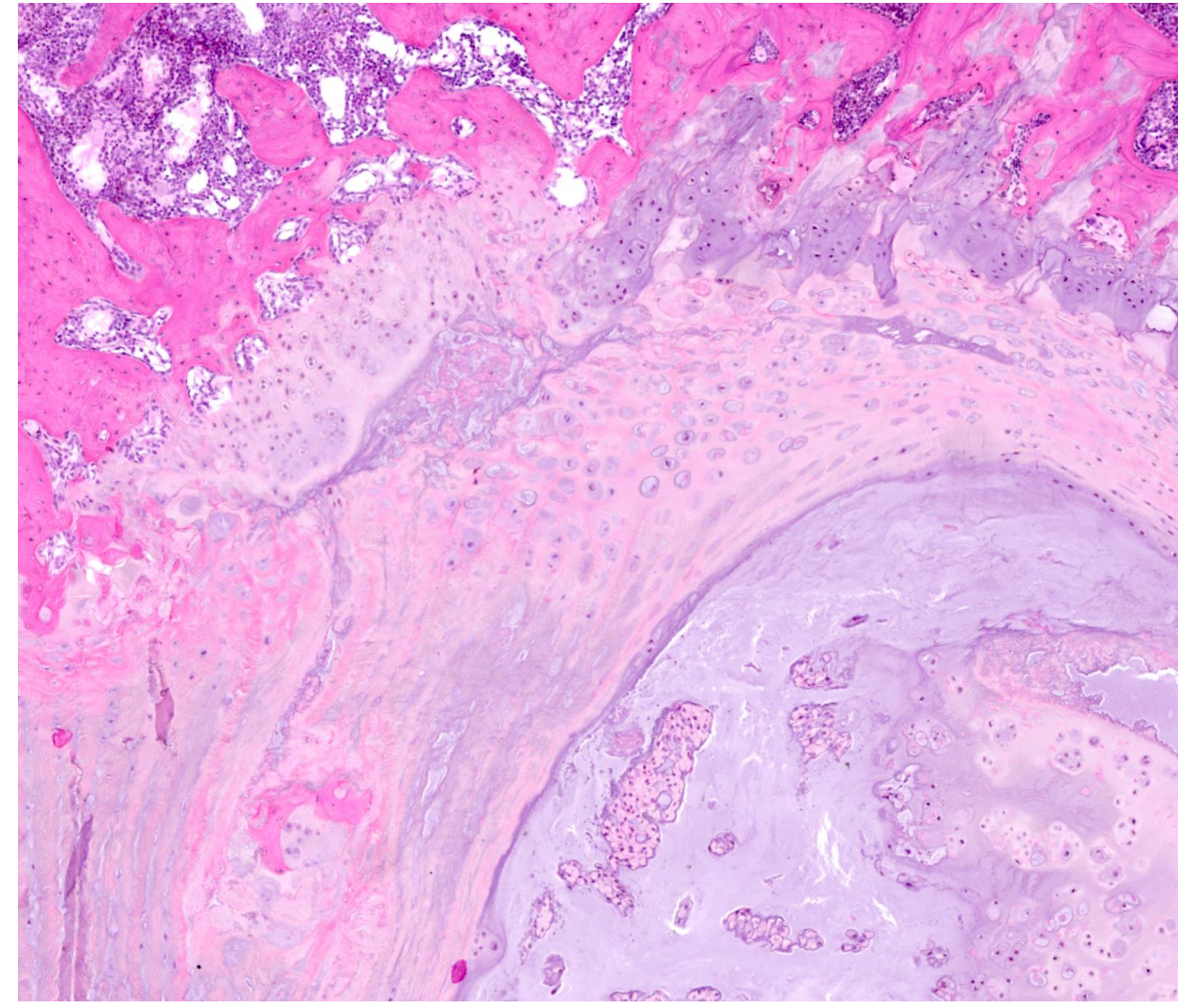
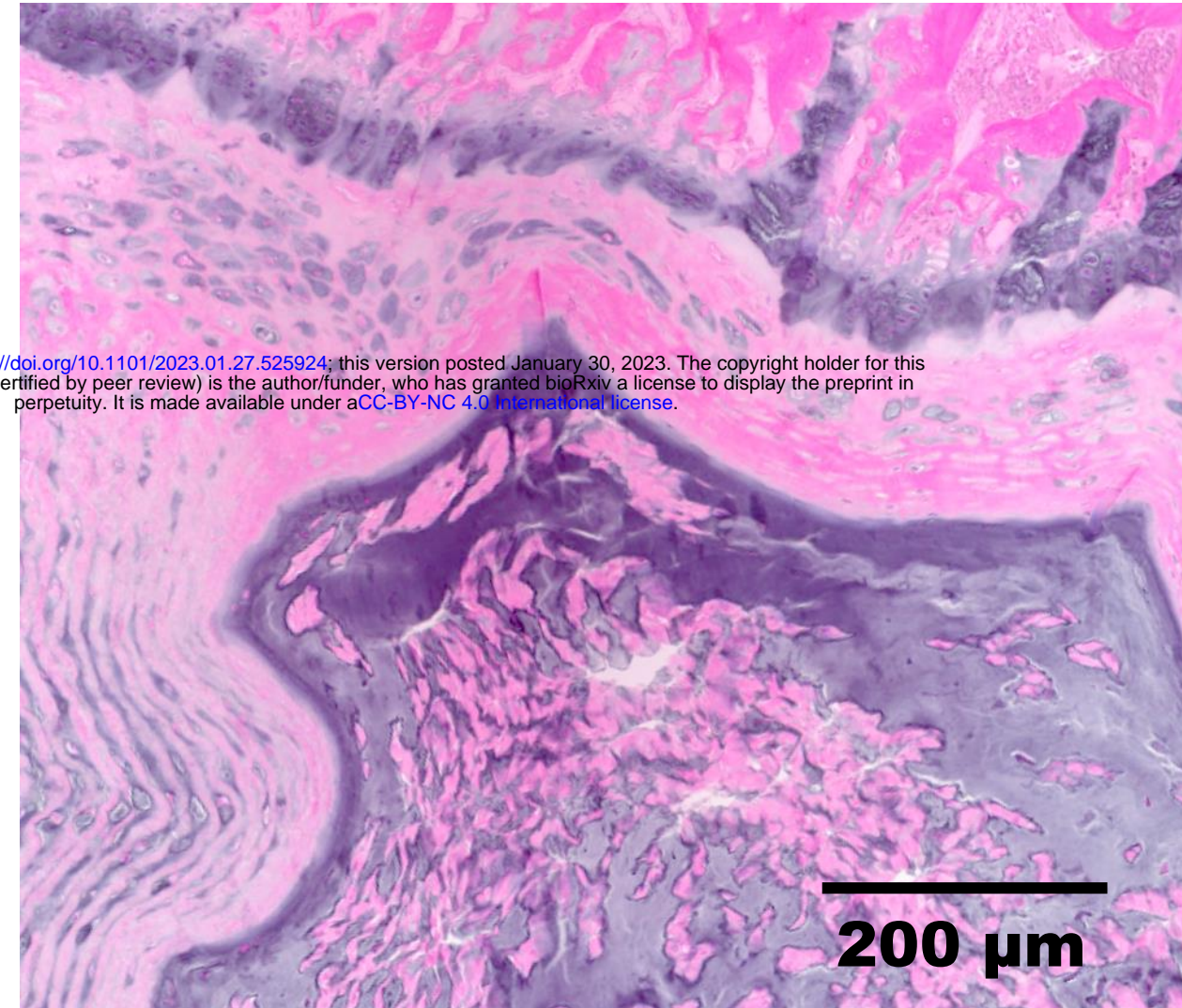
Supplementary Figure 1:



Sham

EP+ PBS

EP+ TNF $\alpha$



Supplementary Figure 2: