

Table 1. Best estimates of parameter values and biological interpretations

Parameter	Meaning	Best estimate, day ⁻¹	95% confidence interval	Interpretation
μ	Death rate	0.00014	0.00007–0.00021	Average time to death of a T cell is 20 years
c	Reversion rate from primed to unprimed phenotype	0.00078	0.00024–0.00321	Primed cells revert to unprimed phenotype, on average, after 3.5 years
k_A	Unprimed-cell proliferation rate	0.00078	0.00046–0.00110	Unprimed cells divide, on average, once every 3.5 years
k_O	Primed-cell proliferation rate	0.00650	0.00511–0.00789	Primed cells divide, on average, once every 22 weeks