

Table 1. Characteristics of thymectomized patients (TP) and healthy donors (HD).

	TP	TP	HD	HD
	(≤12 years)	(>12 years)	(≤12 years)	(>12 years)
Number	58	43	40	41
Chronological age (years)	5.8 ± 3.2	18.6 ± 5.6	7.6 ± 2.9	20.5 ± 6.3
Age at thymectomy (years)	2.6 ± 2.6	3.2 ± 3.2	n. a.	n. a.
Time post thymectomy (years)	2.8 ± 2.4	15.4 ± 5.6	n. a.	n. a.

Values are provided as mean ± standard deviation. n. a. not applicable.

Table 2. Total counts of CD4⁺ T cell subsets, TRECs and percentages of Ki67-expressing CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells in thymectomized patients (TP) and healthy donors (HD).

	TP	TP	HD	HD
	(≤12 years)	(>12 years)	(≤12 years)	(>12 years)
CD3⁺CD4⁺ ^a	1.7 ± 0.6 ***	0.7 ± 0.3 ^{xxx}	1.8 ± 0.6 ***	1.1 ± 0.3
	(1.6; 0.6 – 3.4) [n=58]	(0.7; 0.3 – 1.2) [n=43]	(1.8; 1.1 – 3.7) [n=40]	(1.1; 0.5 – 1.7) [n=41]
CD4⁺CD28⁺CD45RA⁺	1.0 ± 0.5 *** ^{xx}	0.4 ± 0.2 ^{xxx}	1.2 ± 0.6 ***	0.5 ± 0.2
	(0.8; 0.4 – 2.7) [n=58]	(0.3; 0.1 -0.8) [n=43]	(1.2; 0.4 – 2.8) [n=40]	(0.5; 0.2 – 1.0) [n=41]
CD4⁺CD28⁺CD45RO⁺	0.7 ± 0.3 *** ^{xxx}	0.3 ± 0.2 ^{xxx}	0.5 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2
	(0.7; 0.2 – 1.2) [n=58]	(0.3; 0.1 – 0.8) [n=43]	(0.5; 0.2 – 0.9) [n=40]	(0.6; 0.2 – 0.9) [n=41]
CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺	1.2 ± 0.2 ** ^x	0.4 ± 0.2 ^{xx}	1.0 ± 0.1 **	0.6 ± 0.3
	(1.2; 1.0 – 1.3) [n=2]	(0.4; 0.2 – 0.8) [n=24]	(1.3; 0.8 – 1.1) [n=7]	(0.6; 0.3 – 1.1) [n=22]
TREC ^b	3196 ± 578 * ^x	1662 ± 903 ^{xxx}	9615 ± 1049 **	6030 ± 2952
	(3196; 2787 – 3605) [n=2]	(1275; 525 – 3616) [n=24]	(9572; 8066 – 11458) [n=7]	(5410; 2056 – 11194) [n=22]
Ki67⁺ ^c	0.1 ± 0.0	0.6 ± 0.5 ^x	0.2 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.2
	(0.1; 0.1-0.1) [n=2]	(0.4; 0.1 -1.7) [n=24]	(0.1; 0.1 – 0.3) [n=7]	(0.2; 0.1 -0.8) [n=22]

Values are provided as mean ± standard deviation (median; range) [number].

Comparison between TP (≤12 years) and TP (>12 years) or HD (≤12 years) and HD (>12 years): * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001. Comparison between TP (≤12 years) and HD (≤12 years) or TP (>12 years) and HD (>12 years): ^x p < 0.05; ^{xx} p < 0.01; ^{xxx} p < 0.001 (Kruskal-Wallis-test).

^a Number of cells x 10³ per microliter.

^b Numbers of TRECs are given per 10⁵ CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells.

^c Percentages of Ki67⁺ CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells.

Table 3. Correlations of total counts of CD4⁺ T cell subsets of thymectomized patients (TP) and healthy donors (HD) with chronological age (CA), age at thymectomy (AT) or time post thymectomy (TPT).

	TP			HD
	CA	AT	TPT	CA
CD3 ⁺ CD4 ⁺	-0.829 ***	-0.119	-0.730 ***	-0.755 ***
CD4 ⁺ CD28 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺	-0.804 ***	-0.40	-0.717 ***	-0.854 ***
CD4 ⁺ CD28 ⁺ CD45RO ⁺	0.684 ***	-0.153	0.591 ***	0.019
CD4 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺ CD62L ⁺	-0.820 ***	0.008	-0.673 ***	-0.821 ***
TREC ^a	-0.792 ***	0.208	-0.863 ***	-0.867 ***
Ki67 ⁺ ^b	0.785 ***	-0.218	0.789 ***	0.575 **

The correlation (Spearman-Rho) was significant with: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

^a Total numbers of TRECs per 10⁵ CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells.

^b Percentages of Ki67⁺ CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells.

Table 4. Generalized linear model for the influence of the time post thymectomy (TPT), adjusted for the chronological age (CA).

		CA	TPT
	R ²	p-value	p-value
CD4 ⁺ CD28 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺	0.496	<0.001	n. s.
CD4 ⁺ CD28 ⁺ CD45RO ⁺	0.482	<0.01	n. s.
CD4 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺ CD62L ⁺	0.799	<0.01	<0.05
TREC ^a	0.700	<0.05	<0.05
Ki67 ⁺ CD4 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺ CD62L ⁺ T cells ^b	0.642	n. s.	n. s.

R² reflects the proportion of variability in the data set that is accounted for by the generalized linear model. n.s. not significant.

^a Total numbers of TRECs per 10⁵ CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells.

^b Percentages of Ki67⁺ CD4⁺CD45RA⁺CD62L⁺ T cells.