demonstrate that fewer activated neonatal T cells differentiate during proliferation compared to activated adult T cells. These findings suggest that the inhibitory signal of CD31 modulates activation threshold in naïve neonatal CD4+ T cells. In addition, CD31 on neonatal T cells may be important in proliferation and prevention of activation-induced cell death downstream of TCR engagement in the context of infection. Understanding the role of CD31 during neonatal development may provide important insight into mechanisms underlying their susceptibility to infection and subsequent respiratory morbidity.

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