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Modeling of Humoral Immune Response to Repeated Influenza A Virus Infections

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Keywords: Humoral Immunity, Influenza A Virus, Mathematical Modeling. Seasonal infections by Influenza A virus (IAV) causes hundreds of

thousands of deaths worldwide each year, with most individuals being infected multiple times throughout their lifetimes. The relative impact of the components of the host immune system in controlling the severity and duration of repeated challenges from an IAV infection remains unclear. In particular, the differential contribution of the humoral immune response in primary and secondary challenges from IAV are relatively little explored. We develop a parsimonious mathematical model of the humoral immune response to IAV infection with biologically meaningful and identifiable parameters. We show the relative sensitivity of the viral load and antibody response to dynamics of B cell proliferation and antibody production. We relate immunoglobulin class switching to a CD4⁺ T-cell driven process for the formation of humoral memory. Results of this study help to illuminate the relative contribution of CD4⁺ T-cells, B-cells, and antibody in the control of IAV infection and formation of humoral memory.

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