
MUCOSA-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOID TISSUES

MALT

The majority (>50%) of lymphoid tissue in the human body is located within the lining of the respiratory, digestive and genitourinary tracts, as they are the main entry sites for microbes into the body; subdivided into NALT, GALT and BALT.

NALT

Nasal-associated lymphoid tissue (NALT) includes immune cells underlying the throat and nasal passages and especially the tonsils. The architecture of these lymphoid tissues, although not encapsulated, is similar to that of the lymph nodes and consists of follicles composed mainly of B cells.

GALT

Gut-associated lymphoid tissue (GALT) is composed of lymphoid complexes (also called Peyer's patches in the ileum) that consist of specialized epithelium, antigen-presenting cells and intraepithelial lymphocytes. These structures occur strategically at specific areas in the digestive tract.

BALT

The lymphoid tissue associated with the bronchus (BALT) is structurally similar to Peyer's patches and other lymphoid tissues of the gut. It consists of lymphoid aggregates and follicles and is found along the main bronchi in the lobes of the lungs.