

Diagram of Mouse Thymus, Spleen and Lymph Nodes

The diagram below shows the locations of various lymphoid tissues in the mouse. Thymus and spleen are represented in red, while lymph nodes are color coded in green.

The spleen sits in the peritoneal cavity on high under the rib cage on the left side. It is prominent and dark red in color. The thymus sits over the heart in the midline of the thoracic cavity. It is milky white and has two lobes, one of either side of the midline. It is large in young mice, but may be difficult to find in older animals. Lymph nodes are somewhat more difficult to find. They are generally "pearly white" and/or translucent in color and can blend in with surrounding fat. The easiest nodes to find are the mesenteric, brachial and inguinal nodes. The other nodes are generally much smaller and more difficult to find.

