

The nodules may or may not have a germinal centre depending on if it is a primary or secondary follicle

Inactive B cells are found in the **mantle zone**. The fate of B cells in the mantle zone can go one of two ways. These cells either remain in the lymph node and mature into antibody secreting plasma cells and remain in the lymph node, or they transform into memory B cells that re-enter the systemic circulation.

The **light zone** of a germinal centre contains centrocytes that interact with follicular dendritic cells that express intact antigen on their surface. Centrocytes with high affinity binding to the follicular dendritic cell antigen will persist, while those with weak binding undergoes apoptosis. While resident macrophages help to clean up apoptotic B cells, helper T cells support the remaining B cells and foster the class switching phase of the cellular maturity.

In the **dark zone** of a germinal centre, the centroblasts are highly mitotic and have a strong likelihood of producing mutated antibodies. These are the source cells for the light zone.

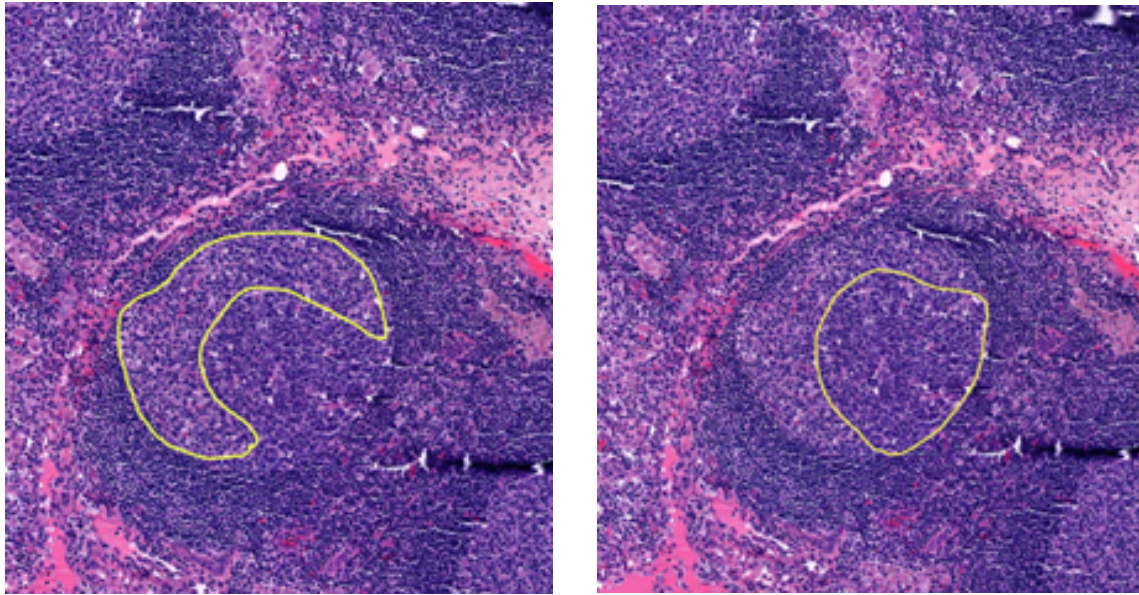


Figure Germinal centre the yellow overlay shows the light (left) and dark (right) zone

Deep to the cortical layer is the **paracortex**. Its margins blend with the superficial cortex and deep medulla. The principal distinguishing features are the absence of lymphoid nodules and the large number of T lymphocytes

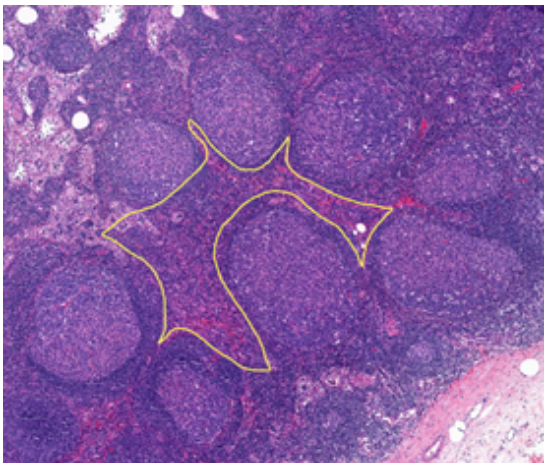


Figure Paracortex the yellow overlay shows the paracortex