

This exposure aids in the ultimate selection of T cells possessing the proper functional avidity and TCR. 1  
specificity. The positive selection: which takes place in the thymic cortex, guarantees that T cells produce  
a functioning T cell receptor (TCR) that can identify antigens that are presented by major  
histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecules. Negative Selection: Also found in the cortex, negative  
selection removes thymocytes possessing TCRs that firmly attach to MHC-presented self-  
.antigens. Thymocytes that are immature and do not express a TCR die. 2