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Urea C-13

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Urea C-13*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47779.

A radiolabelled urea molecule used to diagnose stomach ulcers caused by *Helicobacter pylori*. In the presence of *H. pylori*, urea C-13 is metabolized by urease to produce ammonia and radioactive carbon dioxide at the interface between the gastric epithelium and lumen. The radioactive carbon dioxide is absorbed in the blood and is detected when exhaled in the breath.