

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Mutation

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Source

National Cancer Institute (NCI). Mutation.

A change in the usual DNA sequence at a particular gene locus. Although the term often has a negative connotation, mutations (including polymorphisms) can be harmful, beneficial, or neutral in their effect on cell function. The term variant is sometimes used as a synonym for the term mutation.