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Gram Staining Method

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Gram Staining Method*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C23014.

This is a method (named after the Danish bacteriologist, Hans Christian Gram) for staining and identifying bacteria. It is based on the differential retention of a crystal violet-iodine complex within the cell membrane. Gram-positive organisms will appear blue-black or purple while Gram-negative organisms will appear red.