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Oncogene

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Oncogene*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C16936.

A gene that normally directs cell growth. If mutated or overexpressed in a dominant fashion, it can release the cell from normal restraints on growth. It alone or in concert with other changes, converts the cell into a tumor cell. Alterations can be inherited or caused by an environmental exposure to carcinogens.