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# Zona Pellucida

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Zona Pellucida*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C33896.

A thick layer of glycoprotein that surrounds the plasma membrane of the oocytes of mammals, and functions to protect the oocyte during growth and transport, assist with fertilization and spermatozoa binding, preventing polyspermy, facilitate blastocyst development, and prevent ectopic pregnancy.