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# Cathepsin

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Cathepsin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C16389.

Lysosomal proteinases or endopeptidases that function optimally at an acidic pH to catalyze the hydrolysis of peptidic bonds. Elevated cathepsin enzyme activity in either serum or extracellular matrix is often indicative of pathological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, several types of cancer, arthritis, and osteoporosis.