

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Superoxide

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Superoxide*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C852.

A reactive oxygen species (ROS) containing a negatively charged dioxygen group. Superoxides are produced by phagocytic cells of the immune system to kill invading microorganisms and are neutralized by the enzyme superoxide dismutase (SOD) to protect host cells from oxidative damage.