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# Hypomethylation

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Hypomethylation*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C121521.

An epigenetic process that either inhibits DNA methyltransferase activity or promotes DNA demethylase activity, and results in a net loss of 5-methylcytosines and a net gain of unmethylated cytosine nucleotides either in specific repetitive DNA sequences or across the bulk of the genome. This phenomenon is associated with aging, genomic instability and tumorigenesis.