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Pyrimidine Dimer

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Pyrimidine Dimer*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C790.

A pair of pyrimidine bases (thymine or cytosine in DNA or uracil in double-stranded RNA) within a nucleic acid covalently linked by a cyclobutane ring, the formation of which was induced by exposure to ultraviolet radiation. The presence of pyrimidine dimers inhibits DNA replication; improper repair of these lesions promotes DNA mutagenesis.