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# Nanoshell

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Nanoshell*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C62375.

A nanoparticle composed of a metallic shell surrounding a semiconductor. When nanoshells reach a target cancer cell, they can be irradiated with near-infrared light or excited with a magnetic field; either of these exposures will cause the nanoshell to become hot, thereby killing the cancer cell. The metal spheres can absorb or scatter light at several wavelengths, making them well-suited for several clinical applications.