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Hemizygous

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Source

National Cancer Institute (NCI). *Hemizygous*.

Describes an individual who has only one member of a chromosome pair or chromosome segment rather than the usual two. Hemizyosity is often used to describe X-linked genes in males who have only one X chromosome. This term is sometimes used in somatic cell genetics where cancer cell lines are often hemizygous for certain alleles or chromosomal regions.