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# Activated Natural Killer Cell

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Activated Natural Killer Cell*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C39609.

A cell that acts in a similar manner to a cytotoxic T cell and must be activated like a cytotoxic T cell. However, the killing exhibited by the cell is nonspecific and the cell does not require antigen/MHC recognition on the target cell. The lineage of the natural killer (NK) cell is currently not well understood.