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Internal Ribosome Entry Site

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Internal Ribosome Entry Site*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C13716.

Internal ribosome entry site (IRES) is a translational cis-acting element that directs ribosomes to the start codon by a cap-independent mechanism. IRESs are usually about 450 nucleotides in length and were first identified in picornavirus RNAs. IRESs can fold into a stable secondary hairpin structure to be incompatible with efficient translation by ribosomal scanning. (NCI)