

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Free Radical Formation

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Free Radical Formation*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C40502.

Free Radical Formation involves production in normal or pathological processes of chemically unstable, short half-life and highly reactive molecules carrying at least one unpaired or 'free' electron in the outermost electron shell. Appropriating electron(s) from a nearby molecule and damaging that molecule by altering the electron number in its outermost electron shell, Free Radicals produce tissue damage.