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# Exhausted T-Cell

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Exhausted T-Cell*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C120000.

An effector T-lymphocyte that is losing or has lost the ability to kill virally infected cells. T-cell exhaustion occurs during infections with high viral loads and/or prolonged duration. These T-lymphocytes undergo a gradual phenotype change and in the final stage they are unable to mount a T-cell antiviral response and are highly susceptible to apoptosis.