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# Cat Gene

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *cat Gene*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C19450.

Bacterial chloramphenicol-O-acetyltransferase (cat) gene encodes chloramphenicol-O-acetyltransferase protein, an enzyme that acetylates the antibiotic chloramphenicol to yield chloramphenicol 3-acetate. This product is not an inhibitor of peptidyltransferase, the enzyme responsible for natural chloramphenicol resistance in bacteria. The cat gene is used to select chloramphenicol-resistant colonies following genetic transfection of bacteria.