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Natural Cytotoxicity Receptor Family

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Natural Cytotoxicity Receptor Family*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C129776.

A family of receptors belonging to the immunoglobulin superfamily that are mainly expressed on natural killer (NK) cells. Natural cytotoxicity receptors (NCR) bind to a broad range of ligands derived from microbes, tumors, and endogenous sources. Predominantly, ligand binding leads to the activation of NK cells, which stimulates cell-mediated cytotoxic immune responses, but some ligands may inhibit NK cell activation.