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Carbon C-14

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Carbon C-14*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C1638.

An unstable isotope of carbon created when a neutron collides with a nitrogen atom, causing capture of the neutron and release of the proton converting nitrogen to a carbon with fourteen nucleons (6 protons and 8 neutrons). Carbon-14 emits beta particles as it decays and reverts back to nitrogen.