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Apoptosis

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Apoptosis*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C17557.

A form of programmed cell death that begins when a cell receives internal or external signals, then proceeds through a series of characteristic stages typically including rounding-up of the cell, retraction of pseudopods, reduction of cellular volume (pyknosis), chromatin condensation, nuclear fragmentation (karyorrhexis), and plasma membrane blebbing, and ends with the death of the cell.