

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Coal Gas, Coal Tar, Coal Tar Pitch, and Derivatives

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Coal Gas, Coal Tar, Coal Tar Pitch, and Derivatives*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C122563.

A complex chemical mixture of condensed-ring aromatic hydrocarbons produced by the destructive distillation (pyrolysis) of coal. The lower viscosity byproducts are generally regarded as tar, whereas the viscous, semisolid, or solid byproducts are designated as pitch. Coal tar and coal tar pitch are known to be human carcinogens.