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Carboxyhemoglobin

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Carboxyhemoglobin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C114300.

Hemoglobin where the heme group has formed a stable complex with carbon monoxide (CO). This complex is produced after CO has been inhaled or as a byproduct of hemoglobin, protoporphyrin or dichloromethane catabolism. The heme-CO complex is approximately 200 times more stable than heme-oxygen complexes. Thus, high levels of carboxyhemoglobin in the circulation can lead to tissue hypoxia and death.