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# Heme Protein

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Heme Protein*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C16675.

Proteins that contain a metal-containing cofactor that consists of an iron atom contained in the center of a large heterocyclic organic ring called a porphyrin. One of the main functions of heme proteins is the retention of molecular oxygen to deliver it for enzymatic reactions. As a result, many heme-containing enzymes are located in the mitochondrion.