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# Transformation

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Transformation*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C17212.

The conversion of a cell from a normal phenotype, which undergoes a limited number of mitotic divisions, into an aberrant phenotype that is immortal and divides indefinitely. Transformed cells no longer retain cell-cycle checkpoints and may ultimately become malignant cancer cells via additional genetic mutations, or damaging environmental events.