

Oncogene

An oncogene is a mutated gene that contributes to the development of a cancer. In their normal, non-mutated state, oncogenes are called proto-oncogenes, and they are important in the regulation of cell growth. When altered, an oncogene can either promote or allow the uncontrolled growth of cancer. Alterations can be inherited or caused by exposure to carcinogens (cancer-causing substances).