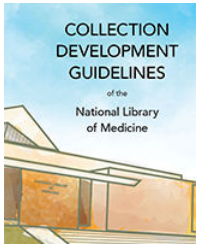




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Cytology

Updated: October 29, 2003.

Definition

The study of cells, their origin, structure, function and pathology.

Discussion

Cytology is the branch of biology dealing with the morphology, structure, ultrastructure, life cycle, and pathology of cells. Historically cytology has referred to the study of the microscopic appearance of cells and cell structures, especially for the diagnosis of abnormalities and malignancies.

The function and life history of cells is discussed under the topic of [cell biology](#).

Scope and emphasis

NLM collects materials on normal and abnormal cytology. Emphasis is on materials that relate to human health and disease.