

## Allergy-immunology glossary

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*Towards a clear designation of some of the terms used in allergology and immunology.*

<p><b>Natural killer (NK) cells</b></p>	<p>NK cells account for up to 15% of peripheral blood lymphocytes. They are important effectors of the innate immune system, cytokine production to regulate hematopoiesis and finally link the innate to the adaptive immune response through a bidirectional cross-talk with dendritic cells. Accordingly, they can lyse tumor and virally infected cells without prior sensitization and spare normal cells that express adequate levels of MHC of class I molecules (MHC-I).<sup>1</sup> NK cells are subdivided into various subsets based on the relative expression of CD16 and CD56. The CD56dimCD16bright population is predominant in peripheral blood, whereas CD56brightCD16-/dim are predominantly found in secondary lymphoid tissue. CD56brightCD16-/dim are cytokine producers endowed with immunoregulatory properties, but they can also become cytotoxic upon appropriate activation. These cells were shown to play a role in different disease states, such as cancer, autoimmunity, neuroinflammation, and infection.<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>خلية فاتكة طبيعية<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>CD8+ T cytolytic cells (Tc)</b></p>	<p>The primary function of Tc cells is to eradicate infected and tumor cells. Upon activation and differentiation of naïve CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells to effector CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) synthesize large amounts of the inflammatory cytokines IFN<math>\gamma</math> and TNF, and the cytotoxic effector molecules perforin and granzyme B, which are deposited in lytic granules in the cytosol.<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>ليمفاويات تائية حالة للخلايا موجبة لعنفود التمايز<sup>5</sup> ٨</p>

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