

Cathepsin

Cathepsins (Ancient Greek kata- “down” and hepsein “boil”; abbreviated CTS) are [proteases](#) (enzymes that degrade proteins) found in all animals as well as other organisms. There are approximately a dozen members of this family, which are distinguished by their structure, catalytic mechanism, and which proteins they cleave. Most of the members become activated at the low pH found in [lysosomes](#). Thus, the activity of this family lies almost entirely within those [organelles](#). There are, however, exceptions such as [cathepsin K](#), which works extracellularly after secretion by [osteoclasts](#) in bone resorption.

Cathepsins have a vital role in mammalian cellular turnover, e.g. bone resorption. They degrade [polypeptides](#) and are distinguished by their substrate specificities.

see [Cathepsin B](#)

see [Cathepsin C](#)

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