

In immunology, the CD3 (cluster of differentiation 3) T cell co-receptor helps to activate both the cytotoxic T cell (CD8+ naive T cells) and also T helper cells (CD4+ naive T cells). It consists of a protein complex and is composed of four distinct chains. In mammals, the complex contains a CD3 $\gamma$  chain, a CD3 $\delta$  chain, and two CD3 $\epsilon$  chains. These chains associate with the T-cell receptor (TCR) and the  $\zeta$ -chain (zeta-chain) to generate an activation signal in T lymphocytes. The TCR,  $\zeta$ -chain, and CD3 molecules together constitute the TCR complex.

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