

Lysine

Lysine (abbreviated as Lys or K), encoded by the codons AAA and AAG, is an α -amino acid that is used in the biosynthesis of proteins. It contains an α -amino group (which is in the protonated $-\text{NH}_3^+$ form under biological conditions), an α -carboxylic acid group (which is in the deprotonated $-\text{COO}^-$ form under biological conditions), and a side chain lysyl $((\text{CH}_2)_4\text{NH}_2)$, classifying it as a charged (at physiological pH), aliphatic amino acid. It is essential in humans, meaning the body cannot synthesize it and thus it must be obtained from the diet.

Acetylated lysine 174

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