

Tryptophan (symbol Trp or W) is an α -amino acid that is used in the biosynthesis of proteins. Tryptophan contains an α -amino group, an α -carboxylic acid group, and a side chain indole, making it a non-polar aromatic amino acid. It is essential in humans, meaning the body cannot synthesize it: it must be obtained from the diet. Tryptophan is also a precursor to the neurotransmitter [serotonin](#) and the hormone [melatonin](#). It is encoded by the codon UGG.

A methylated [tryptophan](#) with [immune checkpoint inhibitory](#) activity. [Indoximod](#) inhibits the enzyme indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase ([IDO](#)), which degrades the essential [amino acid tryptophan](#), and may increase or maintain tryptophan levels important to [T cell](#) function. Tryptophan depletion is associated with [immunosuppression](#) involving T cell arrest and [anergy](#).

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:52**

