

Apoptosis or Programmed Cell Suicide

Apoptosis, or cell suicide, plays a crucial role in both the development and protection of your body.

Sunburn, for instance, is dangerous because ultra-violet radiation from the sun mutates DNA in skin cells.

Such genetic mutation can lead to cells becoming dangerously cancerous, so they automatically undergo apoptosis.

The resulting dead skin cells are clearly visible as **peeling skin**.



Your **fingers** are also the result of apoptosis. In the developing embryo, a hand is initially just a blob. By triggering cell suicide between the finger bones, separate fingers are formed.

Tadpoles also experience apoptosis. As they metamorphose from tadpole to frog, their tails shrink and disappear. This is because the tail cells are committing suicide and their cellular components are being reabsorbed by the developing frog.

