

## **carbohydrates**

Originally, compounds such as *aldoses* and *ketoses*, having the stoichiometric formula  $C_n(H_2O)_n$ , hence 'hydrates of carbon'. The generic term carbohydrate includes *monosaccharides*, *oligosaccharides* and *polysaccharides* as well as substances derived from monosaccharides by reduction of the carbonyl group (*alditols*), by oxidation of one or more terminal groups to carboxylic acids, or by replacement of one or more hydroxy group(s) by a hydrogen atom, an amino group, thiol group or similar groups. It also includes derivatives of these compounds.

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