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Benzoyl Peroxide

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Benzoyl Peroxide*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47411.

A peroxide with antibacterial, irritant, keratolytic, comedolytic, and anti-inflammatory activity. Upon topical application, benzoyl peroxide decomposes to release oxygen which is lethal to the bacteria *Propionibacterium acnes*. Due to its irritant effect, benzoyl peroxide increases turnover rate of epithelial cells, thereby peeling the skin and promoting the resolution of comedones. Benzoyl peroxide is used in the treatment of acne vulgaris.