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Bretylium Tosylate

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Bretylium Tosylate*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47418.

The tosylate salt form of bretylium, a quaternary ammonium salt and non-selective adrenergic neuronal blocking agent with anti-arrhythmic properties. Bretylium tosylate is selectively taken up into peripheral nerve terminals and initially causes a release of norepinephrine from sympathetic nerve endings, thereby causing a sympathomimetic effect. This is followed by a prolonged anti-adrenergic action which prevents further discharge of neurotransmitter from sympathetic nerve endings. Its myocardial effects include a prolongation of action potential as well as refractory period. This drug is used to treat and suppress ventricular arrhythmias, particularly ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia.