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Leflunomide

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Leflunomide*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C1128.

A derivative of isoxazole used for its immunosuppressive and anti-inflammatory properties. As a prodrug, leflunomide is converted to an active metabolite, A77 1726, which blocks dihydroorotate dehydrogenase, a key enzyme of de novo pyrimidine synthesis, thereby preventing the expansion of activated T lymphocytes. This agent also inhibits various protein tyrosine kinases, such as protein kinase C (PKC), thereby inhibiting cell proliferation. (NCI04)