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Ethionamide

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Ethionamide*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47522.

A nicotinamide derivative, with antibacterial activity, used to treat tuberculosis. Although the exact mechanism of action of ethionamide is unknown, it may inhibit the synthesis of mycolic acid, a saturated fatty acid found in the bacterial cell wall, thereby inhibiting bacterial cell wall synthesis. This eventually leads to bacterial cell wall disruption and cell lysis. Ethionamide may be bacteriostatic or bactericidal in action, depending on the concentration of the drug at the site of infection and the susceptibility of the organism involved.