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Difenoxin Hydrochloride

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Difenoxin Hydrochloride*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47487.

A phenylpiperidine with antidiarrheal activity and active metabolite of diphenoxylate. Difenoxin is chemically related to the narcotic opioid meperidine. Difenoxin hydrochloride acts primarily on the gastrointestinal wall by binding to opioid receptors on acetylcholine-containing nerves and inhibits the release of acetylcholine from presynaptic nerve terminals. This leads to a reduction in intestinal motility. Difenoxin hydrochloride also mimics the action of endogenous opioid peptides at the CNS opioid receptors, (primarily mu-receptors), thereby inducing CNS effects.