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Scopolamine

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Scopolamine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47712.

A tropane alkaloid derived from plants of the nightshade family (Solanaceae), specifically *Hyoscyamus niger* and *Atropa belladonna*, with anticholinergic, antiemetic and antivertigo properties. Structurally similar to acetylcholine, scopolamine antagonizes acetylcholine activity mediated by muscarinic receptors located on structures innervated by postganglionic cholinergic nerves as well as on smooth muscles that respond to acetylcholine but lack cholinergic innervation. The agent is used to cause mydriasis, cycloplegia, to control the secretion of saliva and gastric acid, to slow gut motility, and prevent vomiting.