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Fomivirsen Sodium

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Fomivirsen Sodium*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C61770.

The sodium salt form of fomivirsen, an antisense phosphorothioate oligodeoxynucleotide (ODN) with potent antiviral property. Fomivirsen is a 21-nucleotide ODN complementary to mRNA of the immediate-early region 2 of human cytomegalovirus (CMV). Hybridization of this antisense ODN to CMV mRNA prevents RNA transcription from the immediate-early region 2 gene, thereby inhibiting viral replication. In addition, this agent inhibits adsorption of CMV into host cells via a sequence-independent mechanism. Overall, fomivirsen inhibits viral propagation via inhibiting viral replication and viral uptake by host cells, hence delaying progression of CMV-associated retinitis.