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Diphenhydramine

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Diphenhydramine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C61728.

A first generation antihistamine and ethanolamine with sedative and anti-allergic properties. Diphenhydramine competitively inhibits the histamine-1 (H1) receptor, thereby alleviating the symptoms caused by endogenous histamine on bronchial, capillary and gastrointestinal smooth muscles. This prevents histamine-induced bronchoconstriction, vasodilation, increased capillary permeability, and GI smooth muscle spasms.