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Croton Oil

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Croton Oil*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C29817.

A yellow to brown colored, thick, foul smelling, very toxic oil obtained from the seeds of a tropical plant, Croton Tiglium. Croton oil was used as a drastic purgative agent, but is now mostly used as a standard irritant in pharmacological research. Exposure to this substance causes severe skin irritation and affects the small intestine leading to severe diarrhea. Croton oil is a possible human carcinogen. (NCI05)