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Papaverine

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Papaverine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C726.

An opiate alkaloid isolated from the plant *Papaver somniferum* and produced synthetically. As a direct-acting smooth muscle relaxant, papaverine is not closely related to the other opium alkaloids in structure or pharmacological actions; its mechanism of action may involve the non-selective inhibition of phosphodiesterases and direct inhibition of calcium channels. This agent also exhibits antiviral activity against respiratory syncytial virus, cytomegalovirus, and HIV. (NCI04)