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Dactinomycin

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Dactinomycin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C412.

A chromopeptide antineoplastic antibiotic isolated from the bacterium *Streptomyces parvulus*. Dactinomycin intercalates between adjacent guanine-cytosine base pairs, blocking the transcription of DNA by RNA polymerase; it also causes single-strand DNA breaks, possibly via a free-radical intermediate or an interaction with topoisomerase II. (NCI04)