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Bis(chloromethyl) Ether

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Bis(chloromethyl) Ether*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C44343.

A colorless, flammable, carcinogenic liquid with an extremely suffocating odor.

Bis(Chloromethyl) Ether is used in industry as an alkylating agent, a chemical intermediate, a monitoring indicator for the presence of chloromethyl ether, and as a laboratory reagent. This substance is irritating to eyes and mucous membranes and emits toxic vapors of hydrochloric acid and other chlorinated compounds when heated to decomposition. Exposure to Bis(Chloromethyl) ether is associated with higher risk of developing lung cancer, mainly small-cell type, and the risk increases with increasing duration and cumulative exposure. (NCI05)