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Losartan

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Losartan*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C66869.

The potassium salt form of losartan, a non-peptide angiotensin II antagonist with antihypertensive activity. Losartan potassium selectively and competitively blocks the binding of angiotensin II to the angiotensin I (AT 1) receptor. Angiotensin II, formed from angiotensin I by angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), stimulates the adrenal cortex to synthesize and secrete aldosterone, which decreases the excretion of sodium and increases the excretion of potassium. Angiotensin II also acts as a vasoconstrictor in vascular smooth muscle. Losartan potassium, by blocking the binding of angiotensin II to the AT 1 receptor, promotes vasodilatation and decreases the effects of aldosterone.