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Isoniazid

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Isoniazid*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C600.

A synthetic derivative of nicotinic acid with anti-mycobacterial properties. Although its mechanism of action is still unclear, isoniazid appears to block the synthesis of mycolic acids, major components of the mycobacterial cell wall. This agent is only active against actively growing mycobacteria because, as a pro-drug, it requires activation in susceptible mycobacterial species. Isoniazid also interferes with mycobacterial metabolism of vitamin B6. Resistance occurs due to decreased bacterial wall penetration. (NCI04)