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# Polysaccharide-K

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Polysaccharide-K*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C1204.

A protein-bound polysaccharide derived from the mushroom *Trametes versicolor* (Turkey Tail) with immunoadjuvant and potential antitumor activities. Although its mechanism of action has yet to be fully elucidated, in vitro and in vivo studies indicate that polysaccharide-K induces peripheral blood monocyte secretion of IL-8 and TNF- $\alpha$ , induces T cell proliferation, and prevents cyclophosphamide-induced immunosuppression. This agent has also been reported to stimulate macrophages to produce reactive nitrogen intermediates and superoxide anions and to promote apoptosis in the promyelocytic leukemia cell line HL-60.