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# Dirithromycin

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Dirithromycin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47496.

A semi-synthetic macrolide antibiotic pro-drug. Dirithromycin is converted by hydrolysis during intestinal absorption into the microbiologically active erythromycylamine. Erythromycylamine binds to the 50 S subunit of the 70 S ribosome of susceptible organisms, thereby inhibiting bacterial RNA-dependent protein synthesis. This antibiotic is used in the treatment of infections of the respiratory tract, skin and soft tissue caused by gram-positive microorganisms, including *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae* and *S. pyogenes*, gram-negative microorganisms, including *H. influenzae*, *L. pneumophila*, *M. catarrhalis*, and *M. pneumoniae*.