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# Monomethyl Auristatin E

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Monomethyl Auristatin E*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C122637.

A dolastatin-10 peptide derivative with potent antimitotic activity and potential antineoplastic activity as part of an antibody-drug conjugate (ADC). Monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE) binds to tubulin, blocks tubulin polymerization, and inhibits microtubule formation, which results in both disruption of mitotic spindle assembly and arrest of tumor cells in the M phase of the cell cycle. To minimize toxicity and maximize efficacy, MMAE is conjugated, via a cleavable peptide linker, to a monoclonal antibody that specifically targets a patient's tumor. The linker is stable in the extracellular milieu but is readily cleaved to release MMAE following binding and internalization of the ADC by the target cells.