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# Colistimethate

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Colistimethate*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C72729.

A broad-spectrum polymyxin antibiotic against most aerobic Gram-negative bacteria except *Proteus* bacteria. Colistimethate is a mixture of methanesulfonate derivatives of cyclic polypeptides colistin A and B from *Bacillus colistinus* or *B. polymyxa*. Colistin functions as a surfactant which penetrates into and disrupts the bacterial cell membrane, thereby resulting in bactericidal effect.