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# Cyclosporine

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Cyclosporine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C406.

A natural cyclic polypeptide immunosuppressant isolated from the fungus *Beauveria nivea*. The exact mechanism of action of cyclosporine is not known but may involve binding to the cellular protein cyclophilin, resulting in inhibition of the enzyme calcineurin. This agent appears to specifically and reversibly inhibit immunocompetent lymphocytes in the G0-or G1-phase of the cell cycle. T-lymphocytes are preferentially inhibited with T-helper cells as the primary target. Cyclosporine also inhibits lymphokine production and release. (NCI04)