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# Clostridium Novyi-NT Spores

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Clostridium Novyi-NT Spores*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C62762.

Spores of the bacterial strain *Clostridium novyi*-NT, the attenuated obligate anaerobic *C. novyi*, with potential immunostimulating, bacteriolytic, and antineoplastic activities. Upon intravenous administration, *Clostridium novyi*-NT spores germinate exclusively in hypoxic tissue, such as avascular regions of tumors. Germination results in lysis and destruction of surrounding viable tumor cells. Due to their anaerobic nature, *C. novyi*-NT spores do not proliferate in oxygenated tumor regions. However, this agent may stimulate the immune system to exert a cellular immune response, resulting in additional killing of tumor cells not lysed by the bacteria, including those in the well-oxygenated tumor area.