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Ethambutol

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Ethambutol*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C61755.

An antibiotic with bacteriostatic, antimicrobial and antitubercular properties. Ethambutol interferes with the biosynthesis of arabinogalactan, a major polysaccharide of the mycobacterial cell wall. It inhibits the polymerization of cell wall arabinan of arabinogalactan and lipoarabinomannan by blocking arabinosyl transferases and induces the accumulation of D-arabinofuranosyl-P-decaprenol, an intermediate in arabinan biosynthesis. This results in halting bacterial growth.