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# Camptothecin

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Camptothecin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C338.

An alkaloid isolated from the Chinese tree *Camptotheca acuminata*, with antineoplastic activity. During the S phase of the cell cycle, camptothecin selectively stabilizes topoisomerase I-DNA covalent complexes, thereby inhibiting religation of topoisomerase I-mediated single-strand DNA breaks and producing potentially lethal double-strand DNA breaks when encountered by the DNA replication machinery. (NCI)