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Epoprostenol

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Epoprostenol*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C61748.

An oral prostacyclin and a metabolite of arachidonic acid with antihypertensive and platelet inhibitory properties. Epoprostenol binds to prostacyclin receptors on platelet surfaces, subsequently activating platelet membrane adenylyl cyclase and resulting in increased cAMP levels. The elevated cAMP triggers signal transduction that leads to vasodilations. In addition, this agent also functions as an antagonist of thromboxane A₂, thereby resulting in direct vasodilation of pulmonary and systemic arterial vascular beds, and inhibition of platelet aggregation.