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# Etoposide

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Etoposide*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C491.

A semisynthetic derivative of podophyllotoxin, a substance extracted from the mandrake root *Podophyllum peltatum*. Possessing potent antineoplastic properties, etoposide binds to and inhibits topoisomerase II and its function in ligating cleaved DNA molecules, resulting in the accumulation of single- or double-strand DNA breaks, the inhibition of DNA replication and transcription, and apoptotic cell death. Etoposide acts primarily in the G2 and S phases of the cell cycle. (NCI04)