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Pyrithione Zinc

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Pyrithione Zinc*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C47698.

A coordination complex of the zinc ion and pyrithione, a derivative of the naturally occurring antibiotic aspergillic acid with antimicrobial, antifungal and anti-seborrheic effects. Although the exact mechanism of action remains to be fully elucidated, pyrithione zinc appears to interfere with the membrane transport of ions and metabolites, ultimately leading to a loss of metabolic control. In addition, this agent causes an influx of copper, leading to a reduction in the activity of iron-sulphur proteins resulting in growth inhibition.