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Heparin

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Heparin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C539.

A sulfur-rich glycosaminoglycan with anticoagulant property. Heparin binds to antithrombin III to form a heparin-antithrombin III complex. The complex binds to and irreversibly inactivates thrombin and other activated clotting factors, such as factors IX, X, XI, and XII, thereby preventing the polymerization of fibrinogen to fibrin and the subsequent formation of clots.