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# Pentetate Calcium Trisodium

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Pentetate Calcium Trisodium*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C74576.

The trisodium salt form of calcium diethylene triamine pentaacetate (Ca-DTPA or pentetate calcium) with chelating activity. Upon administration, Ca-DTPA loses the Ca ion to form stable chelates with metal ions because DTPA has a higher affinity for heavy metal ions than for Ca ions. Specifically, this agent is able to bind to and form strong complexes with radioactive plutonium, americium, and cerium after internal contamination with any of these radionuclides thereby increasing their excretion.