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Hirudotherapy

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Hirudotherapy*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C53582.

The use of leeches for medical therapy. From hirudin, the active principle in the salivary secretion of leeches that acts as a potent anticoagulant (bloodthinner). Hirudotherapy is mainly used in trauma and plastic and reconstructive surgery to salvage tissue flaps and skin grafts whose viability is threatened by venous congestion.