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# Mirtazapine

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mirtazapine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C29265.

A synthetic tetracyclic derivative of the piperazino-azepines with antidepressant activity. Although its mechanism of action is unknown, mirtazapine enhances central adrenergic and serotonergic transmission, possibly by acting as an antagonist at central presynaptic alpha 2 adrenergic inhibitory autoreceptors and heteroreceptors. This agent is a potent antagonist of 5-hydroxytryptamine type 2 (5-HT<sub>2</sub>), 5-HT<sub>3</sub>, and histamine 1 (H<sub>1</sub>) receptors, and a moderate antagonist of peripheral alpha 1 adrenergic and muscarinic receptors.