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# Ergotamine

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Ergotamine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C61751.

A naturally occurring ergot alkaloid with vasoconstrictor and analgesic property. Ergotamine selectively binds and activates serotonin (5-HT) 1D receptors located on intracranial blood vessels, including those on arterio-venous anastomoses, thereby resulting in vasoconstriction and reducing the blood flow in cerebral arteries that may lead to relieve of vascular headaches. This agent also selectively binds to alpha-adrenergic receptors, thereby stimulating vascular smooth muscle and causing vasoconstriction in both arteries and veins, which also contributes to the relief of headaches. Furthermore, the activation of 5-HT 1D receptors on sensory nerve endings of the trigeminal system results in the inhibition of pro-inflammatory neuropeptide release.