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Saccharomyces boulardii Probiotic Supplement

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Saccharomyces boulardii Probiotic Supplement*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C102567.

A probiotic containing the non-pathogenic yeast *Saccharomyces boulardii* with antidiarrheal and potential anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and immunomodulating activities. As a dietary supplement, *S. boulardii* may improve digestion and help maintain adequate colonization of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract by modulating the composition of the normal intestinal microflora. During colonization of the GI tract, *S. boulardii* forms a protective barrier that helps maintain the integrity of the epithelial barrier. This prevents attachment of pathogens to the intestinal mucosa. In addition, this probiotic secretes a protease that binds to and degrades toxins A and B produced by *Clostridium difficile*, thereby preventing their harmful effects. Dietary supplementation with this bacterium may reduce the secretion of proinflammatory cytokines and may potentiate natural and acquired immunity.