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Ganciclovir Sodium

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Ganciclovir Sodium*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C1588.

The sodium salt form of ganciclovir, a synthetic, antiviral, purine nucleoside analog with antiviral activity, especially against cytomegalovirus (CMV). Ganciclovir sodium is a prodrug that is phosphorylated and subsequently converted into its triphosphate form, the active metabolite ganciclovir-5-triphosphate (ganciclovir-T P), in the infected cells by cellular kinases. Ganciclovir-T P competes as a substrate with nucleotide triphosphates for viral DNA polymerase. Once it gets incorporated into DNA strand, it prevents further polymerization of DNA, thereby interfering with viral DNA replication.