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Mycobacterium w

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mycobacterium w*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C70969.

An attenuated strain of *Mycobacterium w*, a non-pathogenic, rapidly growing, atypical mycobacterium, with non-specific immunopotentiating properties. In addition to sharing a number of common B and T cell determinants with *Mycobacterium leprae* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Mycobacterium w* (Mw) also shares an immunogenic determinant with prostate specific antigen (PSA). In vitro and in vivo studies have shown that heat-killed Mw can induce significant T-cell responses. This agent may induce host T-cell responses against tumor cells expressing PSA. PSA is a glycoprotein secreted by prostatic epithelial and ductal cells and may be overexpressed in prostate cancer cells.