

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Idarubicin

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Idarubicin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C562.

A semisynthetic 4-demethoxy analogue of the antineoplastic anthracycline antibiotic daunorubicin. Idarubicin intercalates into DNA and interferes with the activity of topoisomerase II, thereby inhibiting DNA replication, RNA transcription and protein synthesis. Due to its high lipophilicity, idarubicin penetrates cell membranes more efficiently than other anthracycline antibiotic compounds.