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Ochratoxin A

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Ochratoxin A*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C44427.

A white, crystalline powder that is very unstable in the presence of light but fairly heat resistant. Ochratoxin A is a widespread, naturally occurring mycotoxin that is produced by some fungi, especially by *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*, and is a very common food contaminant found on grains, coffee beans, nuts, decaying vegetation, moldy cereals and animal feeds. This toxin is used in research as an experimental teratogen and carcinogen. Ochratoxin A is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen and may be associated with an increased risk of developing urinary tract tumors. (NCI05)