

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

# Colistimethate Sodium

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Colistimethate Sodium*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C65349.

The sodium salt of colistimethate, a broad-spectrum polymyxin antibiotic against most aerobic Gram-negative bacteria except *Proteus* bacteria. Colistimethate sodium contains the pentasodium salt of the penta(methanesulfonic acid) derivative of colistin A as the major component and a small proportion of the pentasodium salt of the pentamethanesulfonate derivative of colistin B. Colistins are cyclic polypeptides produced from *Bacillus colistinus* or *B. polymyxa* and function as a surfactant which penetrates into and disrupts the bacterial cell membrane, thereby resulting in bactericidal effect.