

Drug Status Report

Drug: Pertussis toxin

Drug Name Status: Pertussis toxin is the common name.

Other Names: PT

Chemical Structure:



Pharmacological class / Application: Exotoxin

International status:

US: The substance is not currently listed on the schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act and is not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: The substance is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control nor the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control.

Canadian Status: Pertussis toxin is produced by *Bordetella pertussis*, a pathogenic bacterium which is the leading cause of whooping cough worldwide. The pertussis toxin is a hexameric protein consisting of five subunits which make up its binding and catalytic sites¹. The toxin is believed to play a central role in the pathogenesis of whooping cough and provide immunoprotective effects against reinfection. The toxin is not similar to any of the substances listed in the Schedules to the CDSA.

Recommendation: Pertussis toxin is not included in the schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

May 25th 2010

¹Stein, PE. *et al.*, (1994) The crystal structure of pertussis toxin, *Structure*, **2**:45-57.