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(54) Title: GENETIC REGULATION OF HOST DEFENSE MECHANISMS BY MUCOSAL EXPOSURE TO NATURAL INTERFERON ALPHA SPECIES

(57) Abstract: A mixture of α-interferons (IFN-α) is used in vitro or in vivo as an antimicrobial agent or anticancer agent. It may be administered by topical application to oral or nasal, and/or buccal mucosa to combat the effects of infection by bacteria or protozoa, cancer, or other pathogenic disease process (e.g., autoimmune or neurodegenerative disease).

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