

X



[Make an Appointment](#)

**Back**

[Search About Herbs](#)

## Diagnosis and Treatment

[Refer a Patient](#)

## Our mission, vision & core values

## Leadership

## History

## Equality, diversity & inclusion

Annual report

[Give to MSK](#)

Some lab studies show that it can slow the growth of cancer cells, but this effect has not been observed in humans.

## What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To reduce anxiety (strong feelings of worry)
- To reduce stress
- To reduce fatigue (feeling more tired or weak than usual)
- To reduce joint pain
- To treat diabetes

It's generally safe to use ashwagandha in food and tea. However, talk with your healthcare providers before taking supplements or higher amounts of ashwagandha. Supplements are stronger than the herbs you would use in cooking.

Ashwagandha can also interact with some medications and affect how they work. For more information, read the “What else do I need to know?” section below.

## What are the side effects?

Side effects of using ashwagandha may include:

- Nausea (feeling like you're going to throw up)
- Headache
- Drowsiness
- Stomach irritation
- Diarrhea (loose or watery stool)

## What else do I need to know?

- Don't use ashwagandha if you're pregnant because it may cause abortion (end your pregnancy).
- Talk with your doctor if you have hormone-sensitive prostate cancer because ashwagandha may increase testosterone levels. This can interfere with your treatments.
- Ashwagandha may increase the drowsiness effects of some prescription medications so talk with your healthcare provider before taking it.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

Ashwagandha - Last updated on March 21, 2023

### Connect

[Contact us](#)

[Locations](#)

APPOINTMENTS

[800-525-2225](#)



### About MSK

[About us](#)

[Careers](#) 

[Giving](#) 

### Cancer Care

[Adult cancer types](#)

[Child & teen cancer types](#)

[Integrative medicine](#)

[Nutrition & cancer](#)

[Find a doctor](#)

## ▼ Research & Education

[Sloan Kettering Institute](#)

[Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate School](#) ■

[Graduate medical education](#)

[MSK Library](#) ■

---

[Communication preferences](#)

[Cookie preferences](#)

[Legal disclaimer](#)

[Accessibility statement](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Price transparency](#)

[Public notices](#)

© 2024 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center