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Leadership

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**Annual report** 

Give to MSK

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Studies show benefit of Butcher's broom in patients with chronic venous insufficiency of the legs.

Butcher's broom contains chemicals called saponins that scientists think cause constriction of arteries and veins. Butcher's broom may also reduce inflammation and increase lymphatic flow, but these effects have not been fully confirmed in humans.

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## What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To treat circulatory disorders such as chronic venous insufficiency
   Small clinical studies have shown that products containing butcher's broom can help improve the symptoms of chronic venous insufficiency, but the long-term safety and effectiveness of these products are not known.
- To treat constipation
   Evidence is lacking to support this claim.
- To treat hemorrhoids
   Evidence is lacking to support this claim.
- To reduce inflammation
   Lab studies show that compounds in butcher's broom have anti-inflammatory effects.
- To relieve leg cramps
   Evidence is lacking to support this claim.
- To treat lymphedema
   One clinical study showed that Cyclo 3 Fort, a butcher's broom product, reduced lymphedema in women who had undergone therapy for breast cancer.
- To promote urination

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## What are the side effects?

- Diarrhea has been reported with the product Cyclo-3, but is less common with use of other formulations of butcher's broom.
- Papulo-erythematous pruritic eruption on legs, which spread within a few days to the entire skin, and produced oedema of
  the eyelids: In a 30-year-old pregnant woman following use of vasoconstrictor cream, containing butcher's broom extract, for
  treatment of varices.
- Pruritic erythematous lesions: In a 34-year-old woman following the local application of a haemorrhoid treatment cream
  containing ruscogenin. Several months later, she experienced a generalized eczematous cutaneous eruption the day after
  topical application of an anti-cellulite product, containing ruscogenin, on the lower limbs.

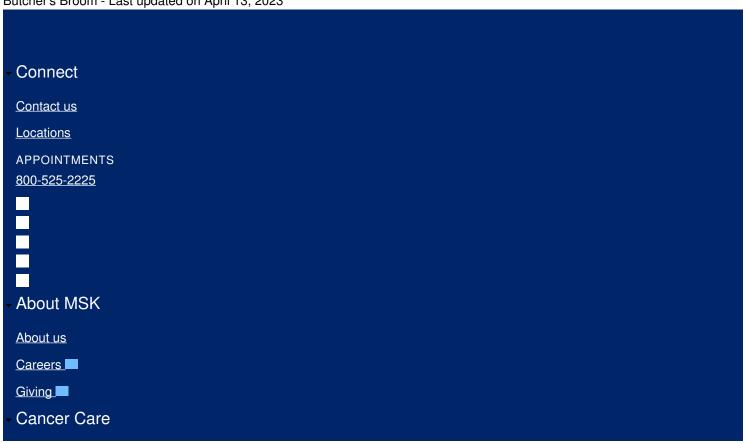
## What else do I need to know?

Do Not Take if:

 You have diabetes (butcher's broom was reported to cause diabetic ketoacidosis, characterized by high levels of compounds called ketones in the blood.)

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 <a href="https://www.mskcc.org/pe">www.mskcc.org/pe</a> to search our virtual library. Butcher's Broom - Last updated on April 13, 2023



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