

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

×



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

[Make an Appointment](#)

[Back](#)

[Search About Herbs](#)

[Learn About Herbs and Treatment](#)

[Refer a Patient](#)

#### ABOUT US

[Our mission, vision & core values](#)

[Leadership](#)

[History](#)

[Equality, diversity & inclusion](#)

[Annual report](#)

[Give to MSK](#)

D-limonene has not been shown to treat or prevent cancer.

D-limonene is derived from the peels of citrus fruits. It showed anti-inflammatory, wound healing and anticancer effects in laboratory studies. D-limonene was shown to alter the signaling pathways within cancer cells in a way that stops cancer cells from multiplying and causes their death (this is called “apoptosis”). In animal models, D-limonene slowed the growth of pancreatic, stomach, colon, skin, and liver cancers. It also slowed formation of tumors and their progression in animals exposed to cancer-causing substances. However, these anticancer effects have not been shown in humans.

## What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To prevent and treat cancer

An epidemiological study reported an inverse relationship between citrus peel consumption and squamous cell carcinoma, but such effects were not observed in early clinical trials.

- To treat heartburn and gastroesophageal reflux

Evidence is lacking to support this claim.

## What are the side effects?

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Allergic skin rash

- Asthma

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.

D-limonene - Last updated on April 14, 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