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Insulin potentiation therapy has not been shown to treat or prevent cancer.

Insulin potentiation therapy involves administering insulin at the same time as chemotherapy drugs, with the idea that lower chemotherapy doses are then needed because insulin lets more of the drug enter cells. However, this theory has not been proven.

In general, insulin should not be taken by non-diabetics because it can decrease blood sugar to dangerously low levels, causing symptoms such as headache and delirium.

- To treat cancer

Evidence is lacking to support this claim.

What are the side effects?

- Low blood sugar

What else do I need to know?

Do Not Take if:

- You do not have diabetes: In general, insulin should not be taken by non-diabetics because it can decrease blood sugar to dangerously low levels, causing symptoms such as headache and delirium.
- You are taking hypoglycemic agents: IPT can have additive effects.

If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

Insulin Potentiation Therapy - Last updated on February 25, 2021

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