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Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

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## FOR THE MEDIA

### What is it?

Although lab studies suggest anticancer properties with this medicinal mushroom, clinical trials are needed to confirm such effects.

*P. linteus* is a medicinal mushroom used in traditional medicine in Asia. Lab studies suggest compounds present in this mushroom may have anti-inflammatory and antitumor properties.

Data in humans are very limited, however. There is one study that suggests it maybe helpful as an add-on treatment in some pancreatic cancer patients. Well-designed trials are needed to confirm these effects.

### What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To inhibit tumor growth

*P. linteus* has been shown in some lab studies to inhibit tumor growth. One study in pancreatic cancer patients suggest it may be helpful as an add-on therapy. There are also a few cases of

regression of liver and prostate cancers. Well-designed studies are needed to confirm such effects.

- To reduce inflammation

Preclinical studies suggest anti-inflammatory effects, but data in humans are lacking.

## What are the side effects?

### Case report

*P. linteus* use resulted in worsening of an autoimmune skin condition called pemphigus that is characterized by blisters, itching, and burning.

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.

Phellinus linteus - Last updated on February 4, 2022

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