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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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There is no evidence to support use of cesium chloride as a cancer treatment.

Cesium chloride is promoted as an alternative cancer treatment. Supporters claim that cesium neutralizes toxins produced by tumor cells and prevents them from dividing. There is no scientific evidence to support these claims. Cesium taken orally is known to cause diarrhea, nausea, loss of potassium, and irregular heartbeat.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

- Cancer treatment

A case series of patients with metastatic cancers showed that only half of patients who used a cesium-based regimen survived after 1 year. In addition, one-quarter died within the first 2 weeks, suggesting the treatment is highly toxic.

What are the side effects?

The following adverse effects have occurred in several cancer patients after treatment with cesium chloride:

- Irregular heartbeat
- Heart rhythm disorder
- Fainting
- Low potassium levels
- Urinary potassium wasting
- Seizure, death

What else do I need to know?

Patient Warnings:

- The US Food and Drug Administration classified cesium chloride as a “bulk drug substance” that [poses a significant safety risk](#) in compounding medications. It also issued [a warning](#) to avoid using dietary supplements containing cesium chloride or any other cesium salt due to significant safety risks, including heart toxicity and potential death.

Do Not Take if:

- You are taking corticosteroids: Both cesium and corticosteroids cause loss of potassium and the combined effects may be serious.
- You taking certain diuretics: The combination of cesium and diuretics may severely reduce serum potassium levels.

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 to search our virtual library.

Cesium Chloride - Last updated on June 30, 2022

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