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Cancer Center

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[History](#)

[Equality, diversity & inclusion](#)

[Annual report](#)

[Give to MSK](#)

Although lab studies suggest a leaf extract of *Convolvulus arvensis* may stop the growth of new blood vessels, this has not been studied in humans.

C. arvensis, also known as field bindweed, is an invasive weed found in many parts of the world. It has been used in traditional medicine, and extracts from the leaves are sold as dietary supplements.

Lab studies suggest these extracts may stimulate the immune system and stop the growth of new blood vessels. A few animal studies suggest it may also reduce tumor size in mice. However clinical trials have not been conducted, so whether this effect could occur in humans is not known. In addition, there could be adverse effects. For instance, because these extracts may affect the growth of new blood vessels, they may also interfere with wound healing.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To stop blood vessel growth and shrink tumors

Lab studies suggest that bindweed extracts may stop blood vessel growth and cause tumors to stop growing. However, this effect has not been tested in humans.

- To stimulate the immune system

One small study in rabbits suggests that field bindweed extract stimulates some immune system cells. Another lab study showed it may affect white blood cell growth. Studies have not been conducted in humans.

- To lower high blood pressure

Field bindweed has been used in traditional medicine to lower high blood pressure, but no studies have been conducted in humans.

- As a laxative

Field bindweed has been used in traditional medicine as a laxative. No scientific evidence supports this use.

What else do I need to know?

Do Not Take if:

- You use drugs that inhibit blood vessel growth, such as bevacizumab: Field bindweed extract may increase the risk of adverse effects.
- You are having surgery: Field bindweed extracts may interfere with wound healing.
- You have a wound or injury that is healing: Field bindweed extracts may interfere with wound healing.
- You are pregnant, or you are a child or adolescent: Field bindweed extracts may prevent blood vessel growth, which is needed for fetal and child development.

Special Point:

Field bindweed extracts have not been tested in humans as a cancer treatment. They are not substitutes for prescription anticancer drugs.

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.

Convolvulus arvensis - Last updated on January 29, 2021

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