Ready to start planning your care? Call us at 800-525-2225 to make an appointment.
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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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Give to MSK

Croton lechleri has not been shown to treat cancer in humans.

The dark red sap of *C. lechleri,* a tree found in many regions of South America, has been used in traditional medicine for wound healing and gastric ulcers. SP-303, a mixture of proanthocyanidin oligomers derived from the plant, was found effective in the treatment of traveler's diarrhea and diarrhea experienced by AIDS patients. Now known as crofelemer, it is has been approved by the FDA to treat AIDS-associated diarrhea.

Studies done in animals showed that *C.lechleri* reduced the size of gastric ulcers and also decreased the time required for wound healing, but human data are lacking. Laboratory studies indicate that it can kill cancer cells, but no studies have been done in humans.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To treat diarrhea

Clinical trials have shown that *C. lechleri* is effective for traveler's diarrhea and diarrhea experienced by AIDS patients.

- To treat cancer
  Lab studies suggest that *C. lechleri* can kill cancer cells, but human data are lacking.
- To treat viral infections
  One clinical trial found that topical *C. lechleri* was no more effective than placebo for recurrent genital herpes lesions in AIDS patients.
- To treat gastric ulcers
  Animal studies suggest that *C. lechleri* may reduce the size of gastric ulcers, but studies have not been conducted in humans.
- For wound healing
  There are no studies in humans that support this use, but animal studies suggest *C. lechleri* can decrease the time required for wound healing.

What else do I need to know?

Do Not Take if:

You are taking dacomitinib: Animal studies suggest crofelemer may worsen dacomitinib-induced diarrhea. Clinical relevance is not yet known.

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.
Croton lechleri - Last updated on March 27, 2019

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