



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Petiveria alliacea

This information describes the common uses of *Petiveria alliacea*, how it works, and its possible side effects.

Tell your healthcare providers about any dietary supplements you're taking, such as herbs, vitamins, minerals, and natural or home remedies. This will help them manage your care and keep you safe.

What is it?

***Petiveria alliacea* has not been shown to treat cancer in humans.**

Petiveria alliacea (Anamu) is an herb found in South and Central America, and in some areas of Africa and the southeastern United States. It has been widely used in folk medicine. Studies done in laboratories and in animals have shown that *P. alliacea* can prevent certain infections, reduce inflammation and pain, and regulate cancer cell growth. However, this has not been confirmed in humans. A small study done in patients with osteoarthritis did not show benefits of *P. alliacea* compared with placebo.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

- **To treat cancer**

Laboratory studies showed that *P. alliacea* can be toxic to some cancer cells but more data is needed. It has not been studied in humans.

- **To reduce swelling and pain**

One small clinical trial found that *P. alliacea* is no more effective than a

placebo in arthritic patients with hip and knee pain.

- **To treat infections**

Laboratory studies showed that *P. alliacea* can inhibit viral, bacterial, and other microbial growth. This has not been studied in humans.

- **To treat diabetes**

An animal study suggests *P. alliacea* extract may reduce blood sugar in mice. However, human data are lacking.

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.

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