

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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What is it?

Siberian ginseng is an herb used in traditional Chinese medicine. It comes in supplements as powders, solid and liquid extracts, capsules, tablets, and as dried or cut root for tea.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

Siberian ginseng is used to:

- Boost the immune system.
- Increase strength and stamina.
- Prevent colds and flu.

Siberian ginseng has other uses, but doctors have not studied them to see if they work.

Talk with your healthcare providers before taking Siberian ginseng supplements. They can interact with

some medications and affect how they work. For more information, read the “What else do I need to know?” section below.

What are the side effects?

Side effects have not been reported.

What else do I need to know?

- Talk with your healthcare provider if you're taking digoxin (Digox[®], Lanoxin Pediatric[®], Lanoxin[®], and Digitek[®]). Digoxin is a medication used to treat heart conditions. Siberian ginseng can increase the risk of side effects from this medication.
- Avoid taking Siberian ginseng if you're breastfeeding. We do not know if this herb is safe to take while breastfeeding.
- Siberian ginseng should not be confused with herbs such as Asian ginseng, American ginseng, or *Panax notoginseng*. *These herbs* are not the same as Siberian ginseng.

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.

Siberian Ginseng - Last updated on February 15, 2022

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