

What are the side effects?

- Usnic acid can cause liver damage when used in high doses.
- Allergic reactions have been reported with topical use.

What else do I need to know?

Patient Warnings:

Weight loss supplements containing usnic acid are associated with severe liver toxicity.

Do Not Take if:

You are taking anticoagulants: Theoretically, usnic acid may have additive effects with anticoagulant medications.

You are taking CYP450 3A4 substrate drugs: Animal studies suggest usnic acid can decrease the effects of such drugs. Clinical relevance is not known.

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.

Usnic acid - Last updated on February 19, 2021

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