



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Artemisia annua

This information describes the common uses of Artemisia annua, 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?

Artemisia annua is an herb used in traditional Chinese medicine. It also comes as capsules, teas, powders, and extracts.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

Artemisia is used to:

- Treat malaria
- Reduce fever
- Reduce swelling

Artemisia has other uses, but doctors haven't studied them to see if they work.

It's generally safe to use artemisia in tea. Talk with your healthcare providers before taking artemisia supplements. Herbal supplements are stronger than the herbs you'd use in cooking. They can also 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 of artemisia supplements may include:

- Dizziness
- Hearing problems

What else do I need to know?

- Don't take artemisia if you have ulcers or stomach disorders. It may not be safe for you.

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.

Artemisia annua - Last updated on August 4, 2023
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