



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Pao pereira

This information describes the common uses of Pao pereira, 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?

Animal studies suggest pao pereira has antimalarial and anticancer effects, but human studies have not been conducted.

Pao pereira is a tree native to the northern part of South America. Preparations made from the stem bark are used in folk medicine as sexual stimulants and to treat malaria, digestive disorders, constipation, fever, liver pain, and cancer. Preclinical studies suggest the bark extracts have antimalarial and pain-relieving properties, may help improve cognition, and may also have anticancer effects, but studies in humans are lacking.

Pao pereira is also marketed in supplemental form as an alternative anticancer treatment. However, its safety and effectiveness has not been determined in humans.

# What are the potential uses and benefits?

- **Malaria**  
Lab experiments and animal studies suggest antimalarial activity.
- **Fever**  
Although used for this purpose in folk medicine, scientific evidence is lacking.
- **Liver pain**  
Pao pereira extracts appeared to relieve pain in animal models. Studies in humans are lacking.
- **Stomach disorders**  
Although used for this purpose in folk medicine, scientific research has not been conducted.
- **Cancer treatment**  
Although preclinical studies suggest anticancer activity, these extracts have not been studied in humans.

# What are the side effects?

Studies in humans are lacking.

# What else do I need to know?

**Do Not Take if:**

As studies have not been conducted in humans, there are no reports of drug interactions with pao pereira.

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](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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