



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Pomegranate

This information describes the common uses of Pomegranate, 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?

Pomegranate is a reddish-brown fruit that comes from the pomegranate tree. Pomegranate seeds have many nutrients. They are also used in traditional medicine to help with many issues.

Juice made from pomegranate seeds comes in supplements as capsules, tablets, and as powders.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

Pomegranate supplements/juice are used:

- To prevent and treat heart disease.
- To lower high cholesterol levels.
- To reduce high blood pressure.
- To prevent cancer.

Pomegranate also has other uses that haven't been studied by doctors to see if they work.

It's generally safe to eat pomegranate seeds or drink pomegranate juice. Talk with your healthcare provider before taking pomegranate supplements. Herbal supplements are stronger than the herbs you would use in cooking.

Supplements 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 pomegranate juice may include:

- Diarrhea (loose or watery bowel movements).

What else do I need to know?

- Talk with your healthcare provider if you're on blood thinners such as warfarin (Coumadin[®], Jantoven[®]). Pomegranate juice can increase your risk of bleeding.
- Avoid eating the root, stem, or peel of pomegranate. They contain chemicals that can be harmful.

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.

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