



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Scutellaria barbata

This information describes the common uses of *Scutellaria barbata*, 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?

Scutellaria barbata has been studied for its anticancer properties, but more research is needed.

S. barbata is an herb found in Korea and southern China. It is used with other herbs in traditional Chinese medicine to treat bacterial infections, hepatitis, and tumors. Laboratory studies have shown *S. barbata* can limit the growth of cancer cells. It is also effective against some bacteria. Small studies in humans suggest that *S. barbata* may benefit patients with advanced breast cancer. Further studies are needed.

What are the potential uses and benefits?

- To treat hepatitis
Scientific evidence is lacking.
- To treat bacterial infections
Lab studies suggest benefit but additional studies are needed.
- To treat cancer
Lab studies suggest that *S. barbata* has anticancer properties. A few small

studies in humans report that it may benefit patients with advanced breast cancer, but larger studies are needed.

What are the side effects?

None reported

What else do I need to know?

Do Not Take if:

- You are allergic to *S. barbata*.
- You are pregnant.

Special Point:

Scutellaria barbata should not be confused with *Scutellaria baicalensis*.

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.

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