

Herbal Supplements & Cancer Treatment

The interactions on this list are related to supplements not standard use in cooking or foods

Common Herbal Supplements	Potential Interactions	Patients Who Should Avoid Use
Antioxidant Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garlic • Gingko Biloba • Ginseng • Grapeseed Extract • Green Tea • High-dose Vitamin E & C • Melatonin • Red Clover & CoQ10 • Selenium 	<p>May interfere with cancer cell killing effects of certain chemotherapy and radiation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients undergoing radiation therapy • Patients on some chemotherapy
Estrogenic Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Cohosh • Chasteberry • Dong Quai • Flax Seed Oil • Gingko Biloba • Red Clover • Soy Products 	<p>Estrogenic effect may stimulate estrogen dependent tumor growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breast cancer patients (especially those patients who are hormone positive) • Endometrial cancer patients
Blood Thinning Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curcumin (Tumeric) • Dong Quai • Evening Primrose • Feverfew • Fish Oil • Garlic • Gingko Biloba • Ginseng • Grapeseed Extract • High-dose Vitamin E & C • Maitake & Reishi Mushroom • Selenium 	<p>Inhibits platelets' ability to clump together (clot) and increases risk of bleeding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients undergoing surgery • Patients with low platelet counts • Patients taking blood thinners
Photosensitivity Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chrysanthemum • Dong Quai • Shiitake Mushroom • St. John's Wort 	<p>Increases skin sensitivity to sunlight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients undergoing radiation therapy
Immunomodulatory Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astragalus • Echinacea • Maitake & Reishi Mushroom • Mistletoe (European) 	<p>Boosts or suppresses the immune system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients taking immunosuppressants • Lymphoma patients
Enzyme Modifying Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Cohosh • Curcumin (Tumeric) • Echinacea • Essiac • Garlic • Ginseng • Goldenseal • Grapeseed Extract • Kava • Licorice • Milk Thistle • Mistletoe (European) • Nettle • Reishi Mushroom • Soy Extract • St. John's Wort • Valerian 	<p>May affect how the chemotherapy drug is broken down in the body and either increase or decrease how well it works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients taking certain oral chemotherapy drugs

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