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Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

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## FOR THE MEDIA

# What is it?

Current evidence is insufficient to support use of Shi Quan Da Bu Tang for cancer treatment.

Shi Quan Da Bu Tang is an herbal formula that consists of [Panax ginseng](#) (Ginseng), [Angelica sinensis](#) (Dong quai), *Paeonia lactiflora* (Peony), *Atractylodes macrocephala* (Atractylodes), *Poria cocos* (Hoelen), [Cinnamomum cassia](#) (Cinnamon), [Astragalus membranaceus](#) (Astragalus), *Ligusticum wallichii* (Cnidium), [Glycyrrhiza uralensis](#) (Licorice), and *Rehmannia glutinosa* (Rehmannia).

It is used in traditional Asian medicine to treat fatigue, anemia, appetite loss, dry or scaly skin, night sweats, dry mouth, and cancer. Breast cancer patients should consult with their physicians before using this formula because dong quai and ginseng may stimulate the growth of breast cancer cells.

## What are the potential uses and benefits?

- Appetite loss

Evidence is lacking to support this claim.

- Anemia

Preliminary data show that the formula helps improve anemia.

- Cancer treatment

Small studies of cancer patients suggest it may help improve survival and decrease chemotherapy-associated side effects, but more studies are needed.

- Dry skin

Evidence is lacking to support this claim.

- Dry mouth

Evidence is lacking to support this claim.

- Fatigue

This formula is traditionally used for fatigue. One preliminary trial suggests benefit in cancer patients, but results from another trial in patients with chronic fatigue were mixed.

- Night sweats

Evidence is lacking to support this claim.

## What else do I need to know?

Do Not Take if:

- You have hypersensitivity to any of the components in the formula.

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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