

The Longwood Herbal Task Force
(<http://www.mcp.edu/herbal.default.htm>) and
The Center for Holistic Pediatric Education and Research
(<http://www.childrenshospital.org/holistic/>)

Patient Fact Sheet

HOXSEY FORMULA

The **HOXSEY FORMULA** is a combination of herbs that is part of the Hoxsey treatment, an alternative treatment for cancer. It is only available at a clinic Tijuana, Mexico. The treatment includes herbal salves and teas, vitamins and minerals, laxatives, douches, antiseptic washes and counseling. The herbal tea includes cascara, and may also include potassium iodide, red clover blossoms, buckthorn bark, burdock root, barberry, licorice root, poke berries and root, Queens root, and prickly ash bark. See the patient fact sheets for some of the individual ingredients for more information.

WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Hoxsey treatment is only used to treat cancer.

WHAT HAVE STUDIES SHOWN?

There have been reports of miraculous cures from the Hoxsey treatment. However, most of these patients had also been treated with conventional therapies, or still had cancer, or died. Also, some had never had a biopsy (sample), which is needed to prove that a disease is cancer and not something else.

There has been only one study of a group of patients after Hoxsey treatment, and the results were mixed. Of 39 cancer patients who received Hoxsey treatment, 23 could not be found, 10 had died, and six were alive after four years.

More studies, including comparison studies, are needed to show if the Hoxsey treatment has any real benefit for people with cancer.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

No side effects have been reported. However, cascara, one ingredient in the herbal formula, is a laxative (it causes bowel movements) and can cause diarrhea and dehydration. Other herbal ingredients could cause low potassium, kidney damage, or heavy metal toxicity.

IS IT SAFE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN?

Hoxsey formula is not recommended for children, or for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

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WILL IT INTERFERE WITH MY OTHER MEDICATIONS OR MY MEDICAL CONDITION?

- ◆ Hoxsey formula can stimulate the intestine, so it is not recommended for people with intestinal blockage.
- ◆ It could cause low potassium, so it is not recommended for people taking Digoxin (lanoxin) or some other heart medications.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- ◆ Always tell your doctor or nurse practitioner if you are using alternative medicine, and before starting any new alternative treatment. Your health care provider needs to know everything you are taking to help you make decisions about your health care. Some alternative treatments can cause problems with other medications, herbs, or dietary supplements.
- ◆ Herbal products may contain chemicals or other species of plants.

SEE ALSO:

Hoxsey Formula Complete Monograph: <http://www.mcp.edu/herbal/hoxsey/hoxsey.pdf>

Hoxsey Formula Clinician Information Summary:

<http://www.mcp.edu/herbal/hoxsey/hoxsey.cis.pdf>