# **Herbal Products and Prescription Medicine**

## Mixtures that may cause problems:

This is a list of only a few of the possible medication / herbal interactions. Always talk to your pharmacist before taking over-the-counter products.

If you take these together:	This could happen:
Aloe + digoxin heart medicine Aloe + steroids or blood pressure meds Beta-Carotene + tobacco Beta-Carotene + tobacco Capsicum + blood-thinners	Lower potassium Lower potassium Higher cancer risk High heart attack risk Risk of bleeding
Cat's Claw + blood pressure meds	Low blood pressure
Cat's Claw + immunosuppressants Chondroitin + blood-thinners Echinacea + immunosuppressants	Reduced effectiveness Risk of bleeding Reduced effectiveness
Ephedra + digoxin heart medicine	Irregular heartbeat
Ephedra + Diabetes meds	Higher blood sugar
Fish oils + blood thinners	Risk of bleeding
Garlic pills + blood-thinners, aspirin	Risk of bleeding
Garlic pills + Diabetes medicines	Very low blood sugar
Garlic pills + cyclosporine  Gingko Biloba + blood-thinners  Gingko + water pills or blood pressure pills  Gingko + seizure meds	Organ rejection Risk of bleeding Higher blood pressure Gingko + seizure meds
Ginseng + blood-thinners	Risk of bleeding
Glucosamine + Diabetes medicines Glucosamine + cancer meds Glucosamine + shellfish allergy Hawthorn + digoxin heart medicine Kava-kava if you have liver problems St. John's Wort + cyclosporine	May raise blood sugar Cancer meds won't work Allergic reaction Irregular heartbeat Severe liver damage Digoxin won't work well
St. John's Wort + cyclosporine St. John's Wort + blood thinners	Organ rejection Reduced effectiveness

## **Grapefruit and Medication Interactions**

These are some of the types of drugs that have interactions with grapefruit or grapefruit juice:

- Drugs used to treat high blood pressure
- "Statin" drugs used to lower cholesterol
- Some anti-anxiety and antihistamine medications
- Protease inhibitors used to treat HIV/AIDS
- Immunosuppressant drugs used after transplant surgery

If you are on medication, ask your pharmacist for the latest information before eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice.

#### Websites to search for medication interactions:

https://nccih.nih.gov/health/providers/digest/herb-drug https://www.webmd.com/hypertension-high-blood-pressure/guide/ grapefruit-juice-and-medication

https://nccam.nih.gov/health/

https://www.webmd.com/interaction-checker/default.htm

### If you have questions about your medication:

Call your pharmacist or doctor.

## If you have any kind of medication problem:

Call 1-800-222-1222 to talk to a trained poison expert at the Indiana Poison Center. The call and advice are free and the poison center is open 24 hours every day.





