

About Tian Xian Chinese Herbal Treatment

What is Tian Xian – a supposed miracle cure? It is very expensive and I can't find any kind of official statement about its safety or its effectiveness.

This page tells you about Tian Xian – an alternative therapy advertised on the internet for cancer. There is information about

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What is Tian Xian?

There is very little information available on this alternative remedy, except from the organizations selling it. They describe it as an alternative dietary food supplement. They say it helps to destroy, control and inhibit cancer by strengthening the body's immune system. There is some information on the [Memorial Slone Kettering herbal remedy website](#). If you are looking for information on the web, it's worth knowing that Tian Xian is also written Tien Hsien.

Tian Xian is said to be a cocktail of 14 plant extracts, including ginseng and liquorice. It was invented by a Chinese Professor called Wang Zhen Guo. Tian Xian claims to have won many awards. All those listed by the sellers are from the 38th Eureka World Invention Expo, an organisation we have not heard of. From the information given by the sellers, this remedy is used mostly in the Far East in places such as Hong Kong, China and Malaysia.

The websites selling this product claim that it has been scientifically tested. But these claims are not backed up by any hard evidence. There are no statistics on survival presented. Nor are there any descriptions of controlled [clinical trials](#). A randomised trial is the only way to properly test whether any new drug or remedy actually works. The only information given about tian xian is that it was found to be not inferior to [5FU](#). Again, no scientific data is given to back this up. What the makers do say is that Tian Xian should be used alongside conventional cancer treatment. It should not be a substitute for chemotherapy, surgery, biological therapy or radiotherapy.

Research into Tian Xian

A few lab studies have looked at Tian Xian with human cells. They show that it may have some immune system effects and may cause cancer cells to die. Normal cells have a natural life span but cancer cells carry on multiplying for ever. That's one of the main differences between cancer cells and normal cells. So substances that encourage them to die off naturally are useful in cancer research. So there is some lab evidence emerging about Tian Xian but no evidence that it works in people yet. As this is a mix of

many medicinal herbs, it would be surprising if it didn't have some effects, but that doesn't mean it is a cancer cure.

Side effects of Tian Xian

The side effects listed for Tian Xian by sites that sell it are

- Constipation
- Diarrhoea, which may contain blood
- Stomach pain and wind
- Feeling and being sick
- Dizziness
- Racing pulse and raised blood pressure
- Loss of appetite
- Piles
- Aches and pains
- Rashes
- Darkening skin if you have liver cancer

This is quite a list, but there are no official medical reports of harm coming to people who take Tian Xian.

Cost of treatment

Tian Xian is expensive. The makers suggest you take it daily for 6 months, or until your cancer has gone. Then, you are supposed to take it 1 month out of 4 for 2 years. Then for 2 months each year for the next 5 years. The price on the web varies between about \$700 and \$1,000 for 28 days daily treatment. Even at the cheapest estimate, that works out to be over £9,000 for a full course.

About alternative therapies

There is no proper research evidence that Tian Xian works as a treatment for cancer. We are concerned that these potential cures are often sold for a great deal of money. And people with cancer can be vulnerable. It is understandable that patients or relatives will try anything if they think it might work. We are also dubious about any remedy that claims to work for all types of cancer. There are over 200 different types of cancer and they do vary. Some respond to one type of treatment and others to another. They have different causes and there are different genetic mutations in the cells of different types of cancer. It is very unlikely that anyone will ever come up with a single treatment that works for all cancer types.