

MedicinesComplete Case Study No. 7

This case study demonstrates a search of Herbal Medicines. It considers the use of the search box and the "Advanced searching" technique of searching for a phrase.

Scenario: A patient asks if it is safe to take ginkgo biloba and aspirin.

1. Select **Herbal Medicines** from the MedicinesComplete home page.

The screenshot shows the MedicinesComplete website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser title is "MedicinesComplete: Drug and Healthcare Reference - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society". The address bar shows "http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/". The website header includes the MedicinesComplete logo, a search box, and navigation links for Home, Print, Help, Preferences, and Log In. A "Welcome" sidebar on the left contains links for About us, What's new?, Products, News, FAQ, Feedback, Contact us, Downloads, and Links. The main content area features a "Welcome to MedicinesComplete" message, a login status notification ("You are logged in from Pharmaceutical Press."), and a "Subscribed publications" section. This section displays ten publication icons with their respective titles: BNF for Children (2005), British National Formulary (BNF 50), Clarke's Analysis of Drugs and Poisons, Dietary Supplements, Herbal Medicines, Martindale: The Complete Drug, MeReC Bulletins, Pharmaceutical Excipients, Stockley's Drug Interactions, and Stockley's Interaction Alerts. The browser status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Internet".


2. Enter the search term into the search box. We are looking for information on ginkgo biloba and this is a phrase. To search for a phrase enclose the terms in quotes, i.e. "ginkgo biloba", click on the search button (or press Enter).

Herbal Medicines: Herbal Medicines - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Print Copy Paste

Address <http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/herbals/current/> Go Links >>

 **Herbal Medicines**

[Home](#) | [Contents](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Print](#) | [Help](#)

[Next >>](#)
[Home](#)

Herbal Medicines

Joanne Barnes, Linda A Anderson, J David Phillipson

Sections

- [Contents](#)
- [What's new?](#)
- [Demonstration](#) (requires [PowerPoint Viewer](#))
- [Quick guide](#) (requires [Adobe® Reader®](#))

Published by the Pharmaceutical Press

The use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) has increased rapidly over recent years and the global market for herbal products has risen dramatically.

Designed for healthcare professionals, *Herbal Medicines* addresses the issues of quality, safety and efficacy by providing scientifically rigorous, impartial, evidence-based, information on medicinal herbs.

- 152 structured monographs detailing phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical aspects of herbal medicines
- Enables the healthcare professional to advise on the rational and safe use of herbal medicines
- Presents various appendices that group herbs with specific actions, and highlights potential interactions with conventional medicine

Internet

3. The search results display shows how the search has been handled and the number of documents containing the term.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Text search for 'ginkgo biloba': Herbal Medicines - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society". The address bar contains the URL: <http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/herbals/current/search.htm?n=50&q=%22ginkgo+biloba%22&searchButton=Search>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar contains Back, Forward, Home, Search, Favorites, Media, and other navigation icons. The main content area displays the Herbal Medicines website search results for the query "ginkgo biloba".

Herbal Medicines

[Home](#) | [Contents](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Print](#) | [Help](#)

[Home](#) > [Herbal Medicines](#)

Search Results

Find documents matching **ginkgo biloba**.

Text search: there are matches in 14 documents.

Results are sorted with best match first.

[Ginkgo](#)
Monographs > G

[Herbal Medicinal Products of Current Interest](#)
About Herbal Medicines > Introduction

[Ginger](#)
Monographs > G

[Kava](#)
Monographs > K

[Herbal medicinal products in Europe](#)
About Herbal Medicines > Introduction > Regulatory Controls on Herbal Medicines

[Appendix 18 Herbal Ingredients containing Flavonoids](#)
Appendices

[Appendix 6 Anticoagulant and Coagulant Herbal Ingredients](#)

Done Internet


4. Click on **Ginkgo** to display the complete document on ginkgo.

Ginkgo: Herbal Medicines - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Print

Address http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/herbals/current/hrb0071.htm?q=%22ginkgo%22%22biloba%22#_hit Go Links

 **Herbal Medicines** Search

Home Contents Advanced search Print Help

« Previous | Next » [Return to search](#) | [Hide highlighting](#)
[Home](#) > [Herbal Medicines](#) > [Contents](#) > [Monographs](#) > [G](#)

Ginkgo

Species (Family)

Ginkgo biloba L. (Ginkgoaceae)

Synonym(s)

Fossil Tree, Kew Tree, Maidenhair Tree

Part(s) Used

Leaf

Pharmacopoeial and Other Monographs

BHP 1996([G9](#))

BP 2002([G71](#))

Complete German Commission E([G3](#))

M. H. L. S. L. (G67)

Internet

5. The Ginkgo monograph provides the details required to answer the question by describing the phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical aspects of this herbal medicine. It includes a statement that “ginkgo extract should only be used with caution in patients taking anticoagulant or antiplatelet agents”. Aspirin is an antiplatelet agent, so this information is relevant to the enquiry.

Note: There may be additional publications contained on MedicinesComplete that could also contain relevant information, but this case study is to illustrate the search of an individual publication only, i.e. *Herbal Medicines*.

Ginkgo ingestion to the man's condition, is unclear.

Contact or ingestion of the fruit pulp has produced severe allergic reactions including erythema, oedema, blisters and itching.⁽⁶²⁾ The seed contains the toxin 4-O-methylpyridoxine which is reported to be responsible for 'gin-nan' food poisoning in Japan and China.⁽¹¹⁾ The main symptoms are convulsion and loss of consciousness and lethality is estimated in about 27% of cases in Japan, infants being particularly vulnerable.

Contra-indications, Warnings

The fruit pulp has produced severe allergic reactions and should not be handled or ingested. The seed causes severe adverse effects when ingested.

Ginkgo extract should only be used with caution in patients taking anticoagulant or antiplatelet agents.

Pregnancy and lactation

No studies appear to have been reported on the effects of *G. biloba* leaf extracts or ginkgolides in pregnant or lactating women. In view of the many pharmacological actions documented and the lack of toxicity data, use of **ginkgo** during pregnancy and lactation should be avoided.

Pharmaceutical Comment

There is a vast scientific literature describing the pharmacological effects of **ginkgo** leaf extracts and their constituents.⁽⁸⁰⁾ These data provide some supporting evidence for the modern clinical uses of standardised **ginkgo** leaf extracts.^(1,2,8,13,14,16,19,20,75,81,82)

Also, standardised **ginkgo** leaf extracts are among the herbal preparations that have undergone most extensive clinical investigation. The effects of **ginkgo** extracts in dementia have been tested clinically mostly in trials involving patients with cognitive deficiency, Alzheimer's disease⁽⁴⁴⁾ and/or multi-infarct dementia. Some high-quality studies involving patients with dementia have reported significant beneficial effects for standardised