Traditional Medicine Derived From Roots Prevents Metastasis

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Withaferin, a chemical purified from extracts of a plant (*Withania somnifera*) used in traditional East Indian medicine, was shown to prevent cell migration in the laboratory (in vitro) and metastasis in animal models of breast cancer. The chemical binds to vimentin, a protein that helps to form a type of skeleton within cells. The results may identify vimentin as an anti-cancer drug target. Previous work indicates that blocking vimentin may not cause severe side effects, making it a good drug target.

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