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# Phosphatidylcholine-Bound Silybin

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Phosphatidylcholine-Bound Silybin*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C71883.

An oral preparation of the flavonoid silybin with potential antioxidant and chemopreventive activities. Silybin, also known as silibinin, is a mixture of two stereoisomers, denoted silybin A and silybin B, and is the major active constituent of silymarin, a mixture of flavonolignans extracted from blessed milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*). Silybin modulates P-glycoprotein (P-gp)-mediated cellular efflux; has oxygen radical-scavenging effects; inhibits the arachidonic acid pathway; and inhibits various cytochrome P450 enzymes. This agent may also exhibit anti-angiogenic activity, possibly by inducing endothelial cell apoptosis via modulation of the transcription factor NF- $\kappa$ B, the Bcl-2 family of proteins, and caspases. Complexing silybin with phosphatidylcholine increases its bioavailability.