

PRESS RELEASE

SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT TRADITIONAL PRODUCT “PO CHAI PILLS” ADULTERATED WITH DICLOFENAC

Department of Health, Hong Kong has cautioned the public through its press release on 22nd June 2010 regarding suspected counterfeit traditional product, “Po Chai Pills” (batch number 21214) which is adulterated with diclofenac. This product is found to be different in external packing and the pills are darker in colour compared to the original product.

In Malaysia, the Drug Control Authority (DCA) has registered a single product manufactured by Li Chung Shing Tong, Hong Kong with the name of “Poh Chai Pill” (registration number MAL 19988034T) which is used traditionally for symptomatic relief of fever, cold, minor diarrhoea, vomiting and stomach-ache. The registration holder and also sole distributor of “Poh Chai Pill” in Malaysia, Po Chai Herbal Technology (M) Sdn. Bhd. has confirmed that the adulterated product with batch number 21214 is not manufactured by Li Chung Shing Tong, Hong Kong.

Diclofenac is a pain killer that can cause side effects such as gastro-intestinal disturbances including gastric pain, nausea, vomiting, peptic ulcer and bleeding. Diclofenac is classified as a First Schedule drug under Poison Act 1952 and can only be supplied by doctors or pharmacists.

The general public is advised to be cautious when purchasing this product. Registered traditional products in Malaysia are evaluated to ensure quality and safety and it is mandatory for these products to carry the hologram sticker. The public, if in doubt, can verify the authenticity of such products at their nearest private community pharmacy.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Hj Mohd Ismail Merican
Director General of Health Malaysia
As DCA Chairman
Ministry of Health Malaysia

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