

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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4 February 2008

Dear Doctor,

A health product for erectile dysfunction containing hypoglycaemic agent

I would like to draw your attention to the detection of a hypoglycaemic agent in an unnamed health product used for erectile dysfunction which came as red/yellow capsules. The products were purchased from a retail shop named Lung Sang Group Ginseng Antler and Sea Product Company in Sheung Shui and they had been found to contain a high level of glibenclamide that could cause serious side-effects or even death.

Two cases were notified to the Centre for Health Protection on 1 February 2008 after taking the health product from the above source. Both cases were admitted to public hospitals in January 2008 presented with hypoglycaemic symptoms (sweating, dizziness and palpitations) without history of diabetes and later recovered.

Another two cases of hypoglycaemia were notified to the Centre for Health Protection on the same day. One of them died after admission and the other one was treated in Intensive Care Unit. Investigations into the two cases are ongoing.

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, products containing glibenclamide must be registered before sale and can only be sold on a doctor's prescription and under supervision of a pharmacist.

Press release was issued on February 1, 2008 urging the public to stop taking the product immediately and to consult medical professionals for appropriate advice for sexual dysfunction. In addition, general public were advised to dispose or submit any product remnants to the Department of Health's Pharmaceutical Service at 3/F, Public Health Laboratory Centre, 382 Nam Cheong Street, Kowloon during office hours. A hotline for public enquiries has been set up and will be operated during office hours (tel: 2572 2068).

If you encounter a case of hypoglycaemia on any male patient without history of diabetes who reported taking similar product for erectile dysfunction, please report to the Central Notification Office (CENO) by fax (2477 2770) or phone (2477 2772) or via the CENO On-line website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>).

Yours sincerely,



Dr. TH LEUNG
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Department of Health



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
*The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control*

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