

Our Ref: (97) in DH SEB NCD/15/15/1/14 II

26 February 2019

Dear Doctor,

**Suspected cases of hepatotoxicity after the consumption of  
Sky Fruit seeds or its related product**

I would like to draw your attention on the potential risk of hepatotoxicity after consumption of Sky Fruit seeds or its related products.

Mahogany seeds, commonly known as Sky Fruit seeds “向天果種子” (in Chinese), are used traditionally in Southeast Asian countries as part of traditional medication for various illnesses. However, there are no clinical evidence supporting its effectiveness and safety. From the medical literature and overseas health authorities, some cases with adverse effects on liver with various severity of liver cell damages were reported after consumption of Sky Fruit seeds and its related product but the exact mechanism of the adverse effect is unknown.

The Department of Health received notification from Hospital Authority (HA) of suspected cases of liver injury after consumption of the Sky Fruit seeds or its related products. Upon notification, DH has commenced investigation immediately. Among the 30 cases reported by HA, there were 15 men and 15 women and their age ranged from 45 to 84 years old, and their onset of presentation was between 2014 and 2019. Most of them (25 cases) consumed raw seeds while the other five cases consumed the related product (in capsule form). There were 15 asymptomatic cases which were found to have deranged liver function test incidentally during routine checkup. As for other cases, their presenting symptoms include jaundice, tea color urine, abdominal pain,



dyspepsia, dizziness, syncope and malaise etc. The duration of intake of the Sky Fruit seeds or its related product before the onset of symptoms range from 4 days to one year. There is no fatal case and their liver injury recovered or was recovering after stop consuming the Sky Fruit seeds or its related product. All of them has been discharged from hospitals or not required to hospitalized.

Although currently there is no scientific data on the direct risk of liver injury related to the intake of Sky Fruit seeds or its related product, CHP will continue to closely monitor the situation and communicate with the public. At the same time, doctors are advised to stay vigilance and ask your patients about the consumption history of the Sky Fruit seeds or its related products and observe if there is any sign of liver injury for your patients. Should you encounter any suspected cases, please notify the DH by using the form accessible through the following link -

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hpf-form3-en-20150109.pdf>

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



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