

Advice against use of product containing Aristolochic Acid

It came to the notice of the Department of health today (March 30) that some products reported overseas may conceal the presence of "Aristolochia" with new packing labels. Members of the public were cautioned against any product which may contain "Aristolochic Acid", a harmful herbal ingredient banned in Hong Kong.

According to medical studies, prolonged consumption of "Aristolochic Acid" is associated with kidney failure and cancer of the urinary tract. The importation and sale of Chinese herbs and products containing "Aristolochic Acid" have been prohibited in Hong Kong since 2004.

Department of Health will maintain vigilance on these products.

Members of the public should guard against any product which may contain "Aristolochic Acid". They should consult medical professionals if in doubt.

30 March 2010