

Alert on herbal medicine poisoning

The Department of Health (DH) has recently received notification of a confirmed case of aconitum alkaloid poisoning relating to the consumption of Chinese herbs prescribed by a Chinese medicine practitioner (CMP) in the Mainland. The herbs were purchased in China and the decoction was prepared by the patient. The patient is receiving medical treatment in a local public hospital and currently stable. The likely contributing factor for this poisoning event is contamination of the Chinese herbs by aconitum alkaloid.

People often patronise CMP in the Mainland for health maintenance or treatment of illnesses. DH advises members of the public to consult reputable and qualified CMPs in the Mainland. Moreover, the Chinese medicines should be purchased from reliable retailers only. To protect your health, never consult unqualified CMP nor purchase any Chinese medicines from unknown source.

Please refer to these links for more health information on toxic Chinese herbal medicines and preparation of herbal decoctions:

http://www.cmchk.org.hk/pdf/rp_pdh10_e.pdf

http://www.cmchk.org.hk/pdf/rp_pdh08_e.pdf

Chinese Medicine Division

Department of Health

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