Banned mercury still widely used in skin creams

Judging from local TV advertising, whitening creams must be one of Thailand's most sought-after products.

It is a highly competitive business and the cosmetic companies that sell the creams are constantly looking for new substances to make the skin look whiter and fresher.

They all should know, however, that one whitening substance to avoid is mercury. It works – blocking the production of skin-colouring melanin – but it also has nasty side effects. The prolonged use of products containing mercury can lead to inflammation of the liver, kidneys and urinary tract.

Disturbingly, research by consumer groups has found that up to 20% of whitening creams studied are highly contaminated with mercury.

The Foundation For Consumers and the Ecological Alert and Recovery- Thailand (Earth) yesterday released findings of the study after conducting experiments on 47 different kinds of whitening creams sold across the country.

Jutamas Suppradit, a researcher at Earth, said the product with the highest amount of mercury contained 99,070 parts per million of mercury, despite the fact that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bans the use of the toxic substance in cosmetics.

Some of the products found contaminated were FC Rice Milk Cream, White Rose Sheep Placenta Cream, Best Beauty Pearl Cream and Baby Face Cream. Manufacturers have been told to remove them from the market.

Adapted from a story in today’s Bangkok Post

contaminated – made dirty, polluted or poisonous by the addition of a chemical, waste or infection สนิม
mercury – a chemical element. Mercury is a poisonous silver liquid metal, used in thermometers ซัพพลาย
banned – officially not allowed อนุญาต
judge – to form an opinion about somebody/something, based on the information you have จัดการ
local – in or related to the area that you live, or to the particular area that you are talking about สถานที่
advertising – telling the public about a product or a service, political candidate, etc. in order to encourage people to buy, use or support it ประกาศ
sought-after – wanted; having a high demand ต้องการ
competitive – having a high level of close competition ทำซ้ำ
cosmetic – involving substances, treatments, etc. that which are intended to improve the appearance of your face or body ชมพู
constantly – continuously, all the time อย่างต่อเนื่อง
side effect – an unpleasant effect of a drug that happens in addition to the main effect ผลข้างเคียง
inflammation – a red, painful and often swollen area in or on a part of your body การรักษา

Bangkok Post article

http://www.bangkokpost.com/print/308056/
liver – a large organ in the body that cleans the blood and produces bile
kidney – one of the two organs in your body that clean your blood and remove waste
urinary tract – the organ system that produces, stores, and eliminates urine, liquid waste, from the body
disturbing – making you feel extremely worried or upset
research – a careful study of a subject, especially in order to discover new facts or information about it
consumer – someone who buys and uses goods and services
foundational – an organisation that provides money for things such as medical research or for a charity
ecological – of the system of relationships between the air, land, water, animals, plants, etc., usually of a particular area
alert – a warning to people to be prepared to deal with something dangerous
recovery – the process of becoming normal and healthy again

Relate Search: mercury in whitening creams

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