



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
28 AUGUST 2006**

## **HSA CAUTIONS CONSUMERS AGAINST TAKING AN INDIAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE - "ENDOPILE CAPSULES"**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) cautions members of the public not to consume an Indian traditional medicine labeled as "**Endopile Capsules**" (Batch Number 90\_16), because it contains excessive and therefore harmful amounts of lead and mercury. The product is manufactured by "Santhigiri Ayurveda & Siddha Vaidyasala, India" and labeled for the treatment of piles and related symptoms. Please see product details and photograph in the Annex.

2 The Pharmacovigilance Unit of HSA has received one adverse drug reaction report associated with the product and analytical tests confirmed that the product contained excessive amounts of lead and mercury.

### **HSA Advisory**

3 The product has already been recalled from the local market and investigation has shown that it is not widely distributed in Singapore. However, as a precaution, HSA would like to caution members of the public who are still holding on to any remnant stocks to stop using it and seek professional medical advice if they are concerned about their health.

4 While the use of heavy metals in the treatment of specific ailments is practised in certain branches of traditional medicines, consumption of excessive amounts of heavy metals such as lead and mercury poses serious health risks as they can accumulate in vital body organs. Symptoms of lead and mercury toxicity include abdominal pain, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea, kidney damage and impairment of the nerves and mental function.

5 HSA reminds suppliers and importers of traditional medicines that it is an offence under the Medicines Act for anyone to sell products that contain excessive amounts of toxic heavy metals above the legal permissible limits. They are liable, upon conviction, to a fine of up to \$5000 or to imprisonment for a term of up to two years or to both.

6 Concerned members of the public who have consumed this product can call HSA's drug enquiry line at Tel: 68663529 during office hours [Mon-Thurs 8.30am to 6pm, Fri 8.30am to 5.30pm] for advice. Persons who have come across this product

being sold may report to HSA's Compliance Branch at Tel: 68663485 during office hours.

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HSA Cautions Consumers Against Taking An Indian Traditional  
Medicine - "Endopile Capsules"



<b>Product Name and Batch Number</b>	<b>Product Indications as Described on Label</b>	<b>Toxic Heavy Metals Detected</b>	<b>Manufacturer and Country of Manufacture</b>
Endopile Capsules  Batch Number: 90_16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Haemorrhoids with or without bleeding</li> <li>- Anal fissures</li> <li>- Shrink pile mass</li> <li>- Arrest rectal bleeding</li> <li>- Corrects constipation</li> </ul>	Contained lead and mercury above the legal permissible limits of 20ppm and 0.5ppm respectively	Santhigiri Ayurveda & Siddha Vaidyasala, India