



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
27 MAY 2020

HSA ALERT: 'LUNG TAN TSAO' AND 'CANDY B+ COFFEE EXTRA POWER' FOUND TO CONTAIN POTENT MEDICINAL INGREDIENTS; ONE LED TO ADVERSE EFFECTS IN A CONSUMER

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) is alerting members of the public not to purchase or consume the two products below. These products may pose serious health risks as they were tested to contain potent medicinal ingredients including a steroid, an antihistamine and high levels of an erectile dysfunction medicine. Details of the two products are:

Product name	Potent medicinal ingredients	Source of product
'Lung Tan Tsao' '龍膽草清血解毒藥(丸)'	Chlorpheniramine Dexamethasone	Obtained from a friend who sourced it in Malaysia
'Candy B+ Coffee Extra Power'	Tadalafil	Online from an overseas seller

Please refer to [Annex A](#) for photos of the products and [Annex B](#) for the possible adverse effects of the medicinal ingredients found in these products.

CONSUMER EXPERIENCED ADVERSE EFFECTS AFTER TAKING 'LUNG TAN TSAO'

2 A woman in her 40s experienced weight gain and swelling of the face after taking 'Lung Tan Tsao'. This product was labelled for the relief of various conditions including eczema, allergies and pain. It was also falsely labelled to contain a variety of natural herbs. The woman had obtained the product from her friend who purchased it in Malaysia. Her doctor became suspicious of the product as it cleared the woman's eczema as rapidly as a prescription medicine would do.

3 HSA tested 'Lung Tan Tsao' and detected chlorpheniramine (an antihistamine) and dexamethasone (a steroid). These potent medicinal ingredients can cause serious adverse effects when used without medical supervision. Long-term unsupervised use of steroids can cause serious adverse effects including increased blood glucose levels (which may lead to diabetes) and Cushing's syndrome (a round face or 'moon face' appearance and upper body obesity with thin limbs).

HIGH LEVELS OF ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION MEDICINE DETECTED IN 'CANDY B+ COFFEE EXTRA POWER'

4 Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers from Air Cargo Command detected 15 boxes of 'Candy B+ Coffee Extra Power' in a parcel and referred the case to HSA for further investigation. The product was labelled as "superfood" and "fountain of youth", and claimed to contain known herbal ingredients such as tongkat ali extract, sky fruit extract and maca powder. It also carried Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and NSF International logos on its packaging. However, HSA tested the product to contain over 50 times the usual daily dose of tadalafil, an erectile dysfunction medicine. When used without medical supervision, tadalafil can increase risk of stroke and heart attack.

5 The misuse of quality certification logos on the product aimed to mislead consumers into thinking that the product is safe and manufactured under high quality standards, but there is no way of verifying if these logos are authentic.

6 Illegal and adulterated products such as 'Candy B+ Coffee Extra Power' can also often resurface under a different name or packaging to evade checks by authorities and trick consumers into buying them. HSA had previously alerted members of the public in September 2017 to a similar product named 'Candy B+ Complex', which was also tested to contain tadalafil¹. Both 'Candy B+ Coffee Extra

¹ <https://www.hsa.gov.sg/announcements/press-release/hsa-seizes-more-than-39-000-units-of-illegal-health-products-containing-banned-substances-with-street-value-of-over-133-000-during-interpol-coordinated-international-operation>

Power' and Candy B+ Complex' were labelled to be manufactured by a same manufacturer, California Pure.

7 Both 'Lung Tan Tsao' and 'Candy B+ Coffee Extra Power' have not been detected to be sold in Singapore. If they surface on local e-commerce platforms or are found in physical premises, HSA will not hesitate to take action, which includes working with the website administrators to take down postings of these products online promptly.

ADVISORY TO CONSUMERS

8 Consumers are advised to:

- See a doctor as soon as possible if you have taken 'Lung Tan Tsao' as it contains a potent steroid. Discontinuation of steroids without proper medical supervision can cause serious withdrawal symptoms such as fatigue, confusion and low blood pressure.
- Stop taking 'Candy B+ Coffee Extra Power' immediately and consult a doctor if you feel unwell or are concerned about your health.
- Be wary of health products that carry exaggerated claims or deliver unexpectedly quick and miraculous results. Be cautious even if the product appears well-packaged or have logos of international standards printed on them.
- Avoid purchasing health products from unfamiliar sources, and exercise caution when buying such products online or from well-meaning friends. You cannot be certain where and how these products were made. They can contain potent ingredients which can seriously harm your health.

ADVISORY TO SELLERS AND SUPPLIERS

9 All sellers and suppliers must stop selling 'Lung Tan Tsao' and 'Candy B+ Coffee Extra Power' immediately. It is illegal to sell and supply such products which

contain potent medicinal ingredients. Sellers and suppliers are liable to prosecution and if convicted, may be imprisoned for up to 2 years and/or fined up to \$10,000.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
SINGAPORE
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About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services and Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HSAsg.

About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards. It contributes to the development of biomedical sciences in Singapore by administering a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework.

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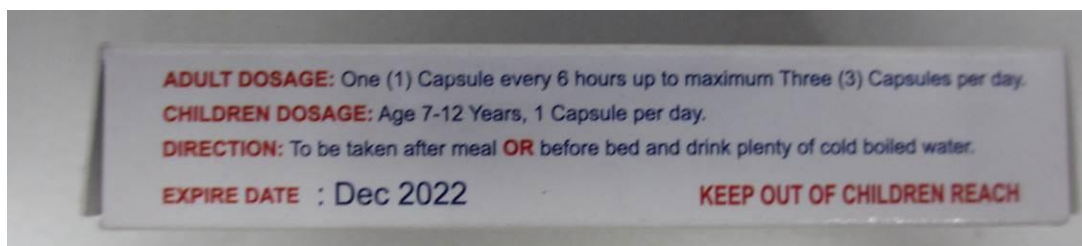
PICTURES OF THE TWO PRODUCTS

'CANDY B+ COFFEE EXTRA POWER'



‘LUNG TAN TSAO’

‘龍膽草清血解毒藥(丸)’



本品為草藥劑，能保養皮膚，治療風濕，頭痛，傷風，癢，食欲不振，鼻病。
每日二次一粒用冷開水吞服，小孩半量。 **30粒** CAPSULES

成人用量： 每隔六小時一粒，一日最多三粒。
小孩用量： 七歲至十二歲小孩，一日一粒。
用法： 睡前或飯後均可。多飲冷開水。
多休息。請詳閱說明書

SUKATAN DEWASA: Satu (1) biji setiap 6 jam, sebanyak Tiga (3) biji sehari.
SUKATAN KANAK-KANAK: ...hun, 1 biji sehari.
ARAHAN: Untuk diambil ... U sebelum tidur dan
banyakkan minum air mas



POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF POTENT INGREDIENTS FOUND IN THE PRODUCTS

Chlorpheniramine

Chlorpheniramine is an antihistamine used to relieve allergic reactions such as hives, asthma and rhinitis. The possible adverse effects of chlorpheniramine include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation and drowsiness.

Dexamethasone

Dexamethasone is a potent steroid that is usually prescribed for inflammatory conditions and should only be used under strict medical supervision. Long-term unsupervised use of steroids can cause increased blood glucose levels (which may lead to diabetes), high blood pressure, cataracts, muscular and bone disorders, an increased risk of infections and Cushing's syndrome (a round face or 'moon face' appearance and upper body obesity with thin limbs). Discontinuation of steroids without proper medical supervision can cause serious withdrawal symptoms such as confusion, low blood pressure and fatigue.

Tadalafil

Tadalafil is a prescription medicine used to treat male erectile dysfunction and should only be used under medical supervision. Inappropriate use of tadalafil will put consumers at increased risk of serious adverse effects that include stroke, heart attack, low blood pressure and priapism (painful and exceedingly long erections). Tadalafil should not be used by patients who are taking heart medications, especially nitrates, as it can cause potentially life-threatening low blood pressure which can lead to death.