

Latest update on a case of solanaceous alkaloid poisoning

Recently, the Department of Health (DH) received notification of a case of solanaceous alkaloid poisoning after consumption of Chinese herbs. The patient fully recovered after receiving treatment in a hospital in Hong Kong. DH has issued a press release on 23 November 2012.

The Government Laboratory testing results showed the presence of solanaceous alkaloids in the patient's herbal broth. However, none of these alkaloids could be detected in any of the Chinese herbs sampled from the retailer, where the patient obtained the herbs for preparing the incriminated herbal broth. Nor were these alkaloids detected in the herbs sampled from the wholesaler.

So far, DH has not received any other report of related adverse incidents.

Members of the public are reminded to follow Chinese medicine practitioners' instructions and advice, as well as to purchase the herbs from credible suppliers. They should seek medical advice if there is any discomfort after taking herbal medicines.

Chinese Medicine Division,
Department of Health
30 November 2012