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INFOSAN Alert

INFOSAN Alert - Outbreak of Acute Hepatitis Potentially Associated With Dietary Supplement Products Labeled OxyElite Pro

Date: November 1, 2013

Countries: United States of America

WHO regions: Region of the Americas

Hazard: Toxin/Chemical › Unknown

Food involved: Dietary supplement for energy boost
body building and weight loss

Illness reported: Yes

Number of Ill people: 56

Reported to IHR: Yes

Alert details:

Acute Hepatitis Illnesses Potentially Associated With Dietary Supplement Products Labeled OxyElite Pro

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local officials are investigating a number of hepatitis illnesses potentially associated with the use of a dietary supplement labeled as OxyElite Pro.

As of 10/31/13, there have been 56 cases of acute non-viral hepatitis with an unknown cause subsequent to the use of a weight loss or muscle building dietary supplement identified nationally, with most of them being in the State of Hawaii. Forty-seven used the dietary supplement products labeled as OxyElite Pro during the 60 days prior to illness. At least 22 cases have been hospitalized with acute hepatitis; two cases have received liver transplants, and one person has died. CDC is also looking at other cases of liver injury nationwide that may be related.

On October 11, 2013, FDA issued a warning letter to USP Labs LLC in Texas (manufacturer of Oxy Elite Pro and VERSA-1) informing them that these dietary supplements are deemed to be adulterated due to the use of a new dietary ingredient (aegeline) that wasn't notified to the agency. Failure to immediately cease distribution of these products may result in enforcement action by the FDA. The agency is unaware of history of use or other evidence of safety of aegeline when used in these products. The Warning Letter is available at <http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2013/ucm371203.htm#>.

It has not yet been determined whether there is a connection between the use of dietary supplements containing aegeline and liver illness. Laboratory analysis of the product to date has not identified a causal etiologic agent, and more specific testing is ongoing. FDA is analyzing the composition of product samples that have been collected from many of the cases.

FDA has advised consumers to discontinue using any dietary supplement products labeled as Oxy Elite Pro and VERSA-1 while the investigation continues. OxyElite Pro and VERSA-1 are sold nationwide through a wide range of distribution channels, including the internet and retail stores that sell dietary supplements. These products are marketed for energy boost, body building, and weight loss. Currently we do not have any information on international distribution. As additional information becomes available regarding this investigation, including distribution information, it will be disseminated.

For more information, see FDA's website: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm370849.htm>

Attached is an article published in "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" of the US Center for Disease Control on the investigation.

The Infosan Secretariat would like to receive information about cases of acute hepatitis which could be linked to this event or any information about the distribution of the incriminated products outside of the United States of America. Since this product may have been distributed widely through the internet, it would be important to inform the public accordingly.

Link to document: Article in "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" of the US Center for Disease Control on the investigation into an outbreak of acute hepatitis potentially associated with dietary supplements labeled OXYElite Pro.

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