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SP605-C-LEAD in Home Remedies

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LEAD in Home Remedies

Tennessee Department of Health

Adapted for Tennessee by Martha Keel, Professor and Janice McCoy, former Research Associate, Family and Consumer Sciences

UT Extension

SP 605-C

Caution:

Home remedies and medicines can help cure sick people. However, some of these home remedies contain lead and will make you very sick.

These home remedies contain lead and are very dangerous!

Azarcon a bright orange powder also known as *Rueda, Coral, Maria Luisa, Alarcon, Liga*

Greta a yellow powder

- Both Azarcon and Greta are given for "empacho" (intestinal illness).
- Both Azarcon and Greta are almost 100 percent lead. Any amount is poisonous to children and adults.

Why is lead dangerous?

Lead can cause damage to the kidneys, nervous system and brain. Children have suffered permanent brain damage and even died from the use of Azarcon and Greta.

Children with lead poisoning usually do not look or act sick. When they do show signs of lead poisoning, their symptoms can be very much like empacho. The symptoms of lead poisoning include tiredness, sleeplessness, stomachache and vomiting.

What can I do if I've taken or have given my child a home remedy that contains lead?

You should get medical attention immediately. Call your doctor, clinic or local health department for more information or for help with treatment for lead poisoning. Ask your health department to arrange for a free test to determine if there is lead in your Azarcon or Greta. Medical information is confidential. Your health is the main concern.

You can also call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222. Someone is available 24 hours/day to answer your questions and help in an emergency.

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT
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Testing your children

Children ages 9 months through 5 years are at greatest risk for lead poisoning. Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick. Ask your doctor to do a blood lead test, and to explain the results to you. This test is the only way to know if your child is being poisoned. Most kids will have a blood lead level of less than 10 µg/dL.

If you have TennCare, your regular doctor or clinic can order the blood tests to check for lead poisoning, if appropriate. Many private health insurance policies will also cover the cost of the test.

Danger!!

These home remedies also contain lead and can make you very sick.

Hmong community:

Pay-loo-ah a red powder given for rash or fever

Asian-Indian community:

Ghasard a brown powder given as an aid to digestion

Bala Goli a round, flat, black bean dissolved in "gripe water" and used for stomachache

Kandu a red powder used to treat stomachache

Arab-American community:

Kohl (Alkohl) a powder used both as a cosmetic eye make-up and applied to skin infections and the navel of a newborn child

This publication was adapted for Tennessee from "Lead in Home Remedies" from the California Department of Health Services.

Lead Testing at 1 and 2...
It's the Thing to Do

TENNESSEE CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

SP605C-3M-5/09(REP) R12-5310-134-050-09 09-0247z

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