

## SHPHK reviews Top 10 Medical Beauty Treatment Ingredients

SHPHK reviewed the 10 most popular ingredients for topical and injectable beauty treatments in Hong Kong on November 19, 2012. Among these 10 ingredients, five of them lack scientific evidences to support their efficacies and/or safeties. These include intravenous (IV)/intra-dermal vitamin C, IV/ intra-dermal vitamin E, IV/ intra-dermal glutathione, deep dermal platelet rich plasma, and intra-dermal phosphatidylcholine.

Another five medical cosmetic injections and topical treatments have been recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) for their efficacies and safeties in cosmetic use. They are intra-dermal hyaluronic acid, intra-dermal collagen, intra-muscular botulinum toxin A, deep dermal poly-L-lactic acid, and chemical peel (e.g. by glycolic acid). But prior consultations by qualified and trained doctors are required, and treatments must be performed by these trained doctors.

SHPHK also suggests the followings:

- 1) Authorities should strengthen the regulation and monitoring of commercial operation of these medical beauty institutions and doctors.
- 2) Consumers should be made aware by qualified doctors of the lack of clinical evidences of certain medical beauty treatments.
- 3) The government review committee on private medical institutions should, in addition to distinguishing medical and non-medical cosmetic treatments, require all high-risk medical cosmetic treatments to be performed by qualified and trained doctors.



## SHPHK comments on admixing cytotoxic drugs in private clinics



SHPHK revealed on 15th October 2012 that there were 19 private medical institutions with chemotherapy infusion services in 12 commercial buildings in Hong Kong and Kowloon. As 90% of the cancer drug treatment needed by conventional cytotoxics, all health care workers involved in the handling of cytotoxics must be adequately protected to avoid long-term inhalation or contact of carcinogens and increase the risk of cancer. Others, such as aseptic techniques, environmental control, health care qualifications certification and disposal of chemical waste are equally important.

The society suggests the followings:

- 1) The Government review committee should expand the regulation of private health care system, to strengthen supervision of high-risk chemotherapy infusion institutions.
- 2) The Department of Health, the Environmental Protection Department and the Labour Department need(s) to carry out inspections to ensure that the operation of private medical institutions to comply with the relevant legislation. Attention should be paid to check the air quality and content of harmful substances in building with central air-conditioning.
- 3) The private medical institutions must introduce dedicated isolation cabinets of international standard for admixing chemotherapy, and strengthen the training of medical staff.
- 4) In transition period, cancer patients may be referred to a private hospital for chemotherapy.