

# State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



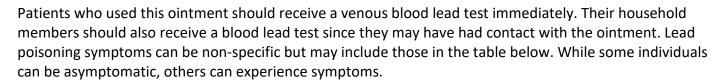
## **Medical Provider Health Alert**

### Fatality from Lead Poisoning Linked to Use of Hemorrhoid Ointment from Vietnam

In March 2024, a woman in Sacramento developed severe lead poisoning and died after using a hemorrhoid ointment from Vietnam called, **Cao Bôi Trĩ Cây Thầu Dầu.** The woman purchased the product on Facebook and a relative in Vietnam shipped it to the U.S. Testing of the product found that it contained four percent lead (39,000 ppm), which is a highly dangerous amount.

### If your patients have used this hemorrhoid ointment, urge them to:

- Stop using the ointment immediately.
- Place the jar of ointment in a closed sealable bag.
- Contact the California Department of Public Health at (510) 620-3620 or email <a href="mailto:toxoutbreak@cdph.ca.gov">toxoutbreak@cdph.ca.gov</a>.



#### Symptoms Associated with Lead Toxicity

Mild	Moderate	Severe
<ul> <li>Fatigue or exhaustion</li> <li>Irritability or emotional lability</li> <li>Difficulty concentrating</li> <li>Difficulty sleeping</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Headache</li> <li>Myalgia, arthralgia, tremor</li> <li>Nausea, decreased appetite</li> <li>Abdominal cramps, constipation or diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Colic (intermittent, severe abdominal cramps)</li> <li>Peripheral neuropathy (often in the hands)</li> <li>Encephalopathy</li> <li>Coma</li> <li>Death</li> </ul>

Contact California Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 for clinical guidance on lead poisoning. See <u>Health-Based Guidelines for BLL in Adults</u> for specific recommendations based on your patient's BLL results.

Visit our webpage for additional information on this alert: go.cdph.ca.gov/Alert-Lead-April-2024

April 2024

