



# Community Alert

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Woman in Coma after Using Skin Cream from Mexico

A California woman is in a coma from using a Mexican Pond's cream that had mercury added to it. The mercury was not added by Pond's but by a third party. She purchased the cream from a woman in Sacramento. She used it to remove spots and wrinkles.

Mercury can cause serious health problems in adults and children. Over 60 people have been poisoned in California from mercury in skin creams in the last decade. They used creams with mercury that were either foreign brands, unlabeled or homemade.

### If you use a skin cream from Mexico for age spots or wrinkles:

- If the cream was not purchased from a major retailer, stop using it immediately
- Put the cream in a sealed plastic bag and contact us (below)
- Bring this page to your the doctor and ask to get tested for mercury in your blood and urine
- For free medical advice in English or other languages, call California Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222



Mexican Pond's-labeled cream with added mercury.

**DO NOT USE:** handmade or unlabeled creams, or other brand names containers that are not sealed when purchased. Unsealed containers could have mercury added to them. Below are some other Mexican skin creams that have tested positive for mercury.



Creams that were collected and tested positive for mercury in California from 2014 to 2019. Two with hand-made labels.

To see more creams with mercury collected in California visit [Face Creams Containing Mercury](#).

To report a cream, contact CDPH: Leave a message at (510) 981-4354, or send an email and a photo of the cream to [AskEHIB@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:AskEHIB@cdph.ca.gov).

For more information, go to the [Mercury in Skin Creams](#) web page for educational materials in English and Spanish.