

Methotrexate Contamination—China 2007

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OVERVIEW

On June 6, 2007, three hospitals in China reported to Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH) and Chinese State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) that patients undergoing intrathecal methotrexate therapy for leukemia and lymphoma developed severe paraplegia and paresis. Paraplegia is the impairment or complete loss of motor and sensory function in the lower body. Severe cases render patients completely immobile. Paresis is an incomplete paralysis characterized by a partial loss of voluntary movement or by impaired movement. More than 100 cases of severe paraplegia and paresis were reported during the following months.

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