#### **NOTIFICATION**

Beware of fake or repacked products being sold as the original. Some resellers have even gone to the extent of touting a known imitation as the original. If one is concerned about one's health & safety, make it a point that what you get is the original, not fakes.

The practice of some unscroupulous traders, repacking unknown contents into nicely labelled boxes with a well known brand name has been around for many years. Consumers are easily misled into believing that these are the original.

For the sake of safety, please contact local brand distributors or parent companies of the branded goods to ascertain if such products are really manufactured by them.

To get in touch with us, please email us directly at lovepotionsss@gmail,com

P/S: Readers might find this article disturbing!

#### Derma C

This statement from Mercator Pharma itself proves that Derma C is a fake product.

#### Mercator Pharmaceutical Solutions does not make Derma C!

Mercator Pharmaceutical Solutions **does not** have a factory in France and **does not**produce the product in the photograph below.

Any claims that it is from France or from Mercator are **PURELY FALSE**. This seems to be a rapidly expanding scam (as we have only noticed this has popped up on the web in the last few weeks) or someone is using our company's name against our will.

There is no way to know that these products are safe. If you see them online, DO NOT BUY them or use them.

If you find a link for a company that is selling these products, please email Nick at(**info@mercatorpharma.com**) and we will contact them directly. There are currently too many companies online claiming they sell a product we don't make for us to track them down on our own, but with your and our efforts, we can take it off the web



Courtesy of http://mercatorpharma.blogspot.com/

#### Fake Products Confiscated - Kojic Acid

This is a relatively new product in the market allegedly containing Kojic Acid. Kojic acid for the purpose of cosmetics as many are aware is actually **banned** in a few countries including **Switzerland**, **Korea and Japan** for its possible**mutagenicity** effects possibly linked to cancer and other health hazards.

What is available in this preparation is none other than **glutathione and vitamin** C. So this is yet another repacked products made to look as if it is a new novel product.

The **bar code below shows that it is not a real bar code**. The number portrayed as the bar code shows it is the wrong sets of numbers for a product said to be made in Japan. This number is only used as voucher codes. It is not a real bar code. A real product made in Japan would bear a different set of numbers. You may refer to our previous article on <u>bar codes</u>. However the packaging we must say is rather impressive, together with the logo of Kyowa Hakko, the purported company that makes it.

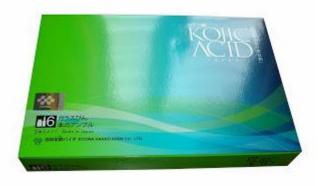
This product does not contain Kojic Acid. It is just a name. And it is not made in Japan. The error in the bar code reveals it all:

Product: Kojic Acid

**Bar Code:** 9987164432453332

**Origin:** Voucher Codes

Significance: This bar code is a false bar



Code









Insert on the inside of the box
Supposed Certificate of Authenticity (FAKE)





Below is a newspaper clip from a Chinese daily that reported the fake nature of Kojic Acid.



In the news today, on television and in the newspaper, 2 salesperson selling Kojic Acid purportedly made by Kyowa Hakko were nabbed after the Japanese company lodge a complaint stating that they have NEVER manufactured Kojic Acid injections.

This has proven us true right from the start.

There are many fake products in Malaysia, repacked using famous company trademarks in order to gain trust, in which the actual companies had never even manufactured the items.

Below are the two news items from the 'The Star' and 'Bernama' news.



There is also a news conference which was televised on ntv7 on the same issue <a href="http://www.ntv7.com.my/7edition/local-en/RM10\_000\_WORTH\_OF\_FAKE\_WHITENING\_PRODUCTS\_SEIZED\_IN\_PENANG.html">http://www.ntv7.com.my/7edition/local-en/RM10\_000\_WORTH\_OF\_FAKE\_WHITENING\_PRODUCTS\_SEIZED\_IN\_PENANG.html</a>

# JMedic Dermal Laboratories Master Pro White EGF White Essential / Hyal Complex















This is another fake product, after checking with our partners in Korea, this company does not exist.

# Aqua Skin Whitening Skinnic

This is another product which is an immitation using the name Skinnic, a brand name and establishment in Malaysia and Expanscience Laboratoires. Upon checks, the manufacturer does not exist in Switzerland. The spelling on the box at the back concerning the address is also a misspelled word for Laboratory in swiss. The bar code also indicates that this is not a product made in Switzerland. We have also looked at the composition in the aqua (water) solution. A few items in it cannot dissolve in a water environment. Thus this is another fake item.















## Glutax 3G, New Glutax 4G & Glutax 5G

Another new version of a fake item, taking the cue from Glutax 3G is apparently on the market now.









This is another repacked product containing glutathione and vitamin C.

Dermedical is actually not an Italian company but an Australian one. This is another case of taking the brand name of another company and relabelling the product whilst making a few changes as to the location, phone number and address. This product is yet again another imitation.

And there is yet new versions of the above Glutax 4G and Glutax 5G.

### Lucchini (Blue & Green)





FAKE (IMITATION)
Not Genuine Article



Lucchini, the original company from Switzerland had been closed down since 2003.

The above product, purportedly human placenta is said to still being made in Switzerland under the above brand name & stated manufacturer. Obviously this is not an original product since the company has failed to exist since the stipulated time. The manufacturer's details printed on the box is but a pharmaceutical trading company, and not even one that is based in Switzerland (they are based in Italy instead). They do not produce this item and have no knowledge of this so called human placenta injection allegedly made by the group.

## SLC24A5 Inhibitor II

Does SLC24A5 Gene-Inhibitor really whitens the skin?



Recently, there has been a new up and coming whitening injection procedure called the SLC24A- Inhibitor. I have seen this product being advertised by several well known aesthetic clinics in the country.

Don't let the complex name confuse you. Putting it simply, what this injection claims to do is that once injected, it will go into your DNA and telling your body to "switch-off" the genetic information that pigments your skin causing a much lighter skin appearance without affecting other pigmented body parts such as your hair, eyes, etc.

Now, this information does sound like too good to be true and honestly as an aesthetic physician, i was very interested to inquire more info bout the product especially before introducing it to my patients.

Here's the information i found out from the **manufacturer's website**:



Fig.1 "Chief Researcher" in SLC24A5 technology (Picture screen-printed directly from the manufacturer's website)

**Information from the Manufacturer's Site**: "Swiss Institution of Medical sciences -- Aeskulap Brunnen has once again invented the most powerful skin whitening formulations

which is the safest and most powerful in the world – SLC24A5 Inhibitor, which disables the pigmentation gene in the body."

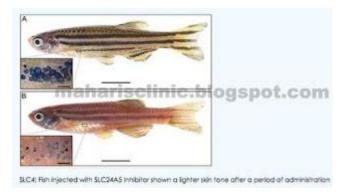


Fig 2. Dark Zebra Fish claimed to turn white after SLC24A5 Inhibitor Injection (A Picture posted on the Manufacturer's Website)

My first instinct was that of amazement. I thought to myself, if scientific research on genetics is already this advanced, we are days away from injectable drugs that can "turn-off" genes for cancer and various auto-immune disease, certainly skin-whitening would not be the number one priority medical application for such advanced genetic engineering technology.

So, my curiosity got me to the path of finding the full article of that "Zebra Fish Research" (**Fig.2**) that claims to whiten the color of a fish after several injections of this substance.

When i couldn't find this suggested article by "Prof Jason Mest" (**Fig.1**) through the conventional medical literature search engine, i tried finding the article through the "Aeskulap Brunnen Institution of Medical Research." I thought, this is such a huge research and since "Prof. Mest" is the lead scientist in that particular institute, surely i could find a full-text paper of this calibre easily on that site.

To my surprise, there is no such "Aeskulap Brunnen Institution of Medical Research" in Switzerland as the manufacturer suggested. There is, however, an Aeskulap Klinik<a href="http://www.aeskulap-klinik.ch/">http://www.aeskulap-klinik.ch/</a> (Its a big Clinic in the city of Brunen, Switzerland, not a medical research institute). I tried inquiring if this SLC24A5 Gene Inhibitor therapy is even offered there and at this point i was not surprised anymore that there isn't such therapy or even anything similar to such thing existed in Aeskulap Klinik!

Since the manufacturer also claimed that "Professor Mest" is a Professor in Genetic at the University of Philadelphia Medical School, i thought if this person was real, someone of his caliber would definitely be listed as a faculty in the university website, right? http://www.med.upenn.edu/faculty.shtml,

and again, not surprisingly, there's not a known professor in that university ever existed.

So, who is James Mest really? Is the research even valid? or does the "zebra fish" article even exist?

I finally located the original article that has been misconstrued in the manufacturer's website and here's what i found out:



Fig. 3: The Original /Real Research Article: www.sciencemag.org

The original/ real article (Fig.3) is a fully valid article entitled "SLC24A5 a Putative Cation Exchanger, Affects Pigmentation in Zebra Fish and Humans."

To my current knowledge, this article was published in magazine called "Science" Vol 310, 16 Decemer 2005 Issue (Note: Although "Science" magazine is an informative and trustworthy scientific journalism, however it is not categorized as a peer-reviewed medical journal).

Basically what the **real article** (**Fig. 3**) (explained by the abstract in Fig.3, i have highlighted the important bits of information for easier understanding of the real article) is saying is that through this research, they have possibly identified the source of different skin colorations in Zebra Fish (**Fig.4**), so it's not that lighter colored fish turned dark to light as a result of the injection as the caption in **Fig.2** suggested. But that picture is basically pictures of 2 different variants of Zebra Fish that are being compared and studied/Based on comparing these 2 different colored fish, the researchers found out that the SLC2A45 gene in this particular type of fish may have an important role in determining how one fish gets to be a lighter color than the other.

The article suggested that the human genes is somewhat similar to that of Zebra Fish and therefore although this research was primarily on Zebra Fish, the result that they found can very well be applied to humans as well.

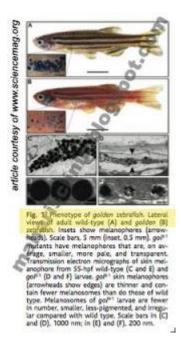


Fig 4: Pictures of 2 Different Variants of Zebra Fish

As for "Jason Mest," as you can see in **Fig. 3**, he actually does really exist (to my surprise) and in fact one of the main researchers in the study from Dept of Pathology in Jake Gilden Cancer Research Institute (as the real article suggested) and not an aesthetic researcher/professor in the non-existant biomedical institute in Switzerland or part of the faculty in the University of Philadelphia.

Now, before you decide on dropping on thousands of dollars and getting daily injection for 2-4 weeks (the recommended dosage by the manufacturer is: daily or every other day for a total of 36 vials injection in the first cycle to be injected into the muscle/vein) of this "high-tech" genetic engineering whitening solution is not only to question about is efficacy, but also more importantly think about its safety!



Because as a physician, i would be having a difficult time in assuring the safety (or let alone the efficacy) of a product whose primary ingredient is rather questionable.

Therefore, the next time you see amazing before/after pictures (**Fig.5**) in a magazine or waiting lounge of a swanky place somewhere (as I have seen these very sets of pictures being used to advertise this injection product to the general public in several well-known beauty magazines and even sadly endorsed by a medical specialist!), I encourage you to think again and this time more critically and bear in mind these 3 important principles:

- 1. If the results seem to good to be true -> they probably are, and
- 2. If the technology seems to be too advanced from where are now, it probably is! and if you're still in doubt,
- 3. Ask your doctor a detailed information about the procedure you're interested in, it's your right to know and remember that it is OK to ask critical questions!

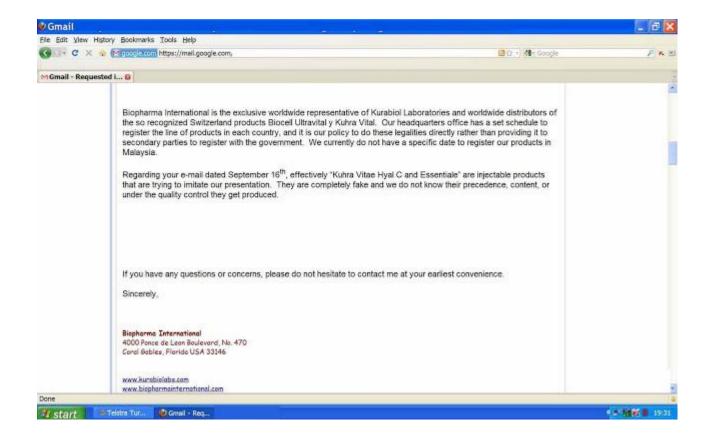
**Articel courtesy of Maharis Clinic:** 

http://maharisclinic.blogspot.com/2011/05/does-slc24a5-gene-inhibitor-really.html)

# Kuhra Vitae Essentiale & Hyal C







# NC24 Vitamin C + Collagen







## <u>NC24</u>





NC24 is actually an Australian brand name (Nature's Care Australia) which produces dietary supplements and topical applications for the skin. They do not produce injectables. NC24 is not a Japanese brand name. This fake product is said to be produced in China.



The site can be visited online:

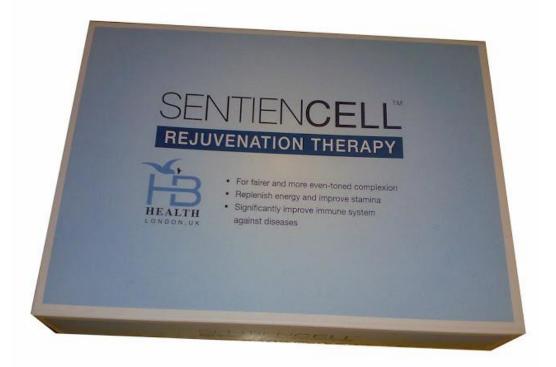
 $\underline{http://www.naturescare.com.au/skincare/nc24bio/index.htm}$ 

Thus the NC24 available in the market is not actually from NC24 itself but a brand that is utilised for the sole purpose of make the product look legitimate. It certainly is not a brand name from Japan. We however bevelieve the ingredients contain glutathione powder and vitamin C (ascorbic acid) but from which source, we are uncertain. One can easily verify the information by contacting NC24 it self.





## Sentien Cell





This product is not a real product.

The description on the front & back of the box is laden with grammatical errors & poor use of English.

The company HB Health does exist but it does not produce this product. The real address of HB Health is:

#### **HB** Health of Knightsbridge

12 Beauchamp Place London SW3 1NQ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7838 0765 Fax: +44 (0)20 7838 0766 Email us: info@hbhealth.com

http://www.hbhealth.com/contact.html

And the address on the box of Sentien Cell is actually occupied by **L'Occitane** with a slight change in the telephone number given:

#### address:

L'Occitane 15-19 Cavendish Place London W1G 0QE

#### telephone:

020 79070300

Compare the telephone number of L'Occitane and the company above. And if you wish to verify further you may call the number and see for yourself what you get. Or alternatively you may call HB Health itself or send an email to them.

The true content of Sentien Cell is <u>Gerovital H3</u>. Thus the mentioning of procaine as one of the constituent ingredients of Sentien Cell. In other words, the content is Gerovital H3 but repacked into a completely different product.

#### Tationil Bayer (FAKE/IMITATION)



#### This product is an imitation of the tationil teofarma/roche.

These are far cheaper than the <u>original</u> and thus some individuals would not mind buying them because of the cost. Some sellers also insist that these are genuine articles when they are clearly not. Bayer produces Laroscorbine vitamin C but it does not and have never produced Tationil. The trademarked brand "Tationil" is the sole possession of its manufacturer <u>Teofarma</u> in which the rights to the use of the brand has reverted back from Roche since last year.

The content of this particular item (Tationil Bayer) is of non-Italian origin, most probably of Chinese origin and repacked & relabelled to make it look original. One close look will reveal its real identity. The labels on the vials/ampoules are made by the use of **plastic stickers** bearing the logo and description of the product. These stickers can be easily removed and can be easily produced anywhere. The original product (Teofarma) however do not employ stickers. The logo is printed directly onto the vials/ampoules themselves. Furthermore there are no**bar code tags** on the repacked products as opposed to the original.

Always use original genuine articles for safety concerns as the adverse effects may take years to manifest themselves.

For further details you may contact local Bayer representative in your countries and inquire them if they ever produce this product and you will be surprised that they do not.

# **Biotad**





#### Others:

## Identifying fake products by examining Bar Codes.

All original products used for injections and for oral consumption and for topical use, should portray their bar codes clearly. If they are not present, they are not original. No two different products will bear identical numbers.

Readers may verify themselves that what is written below is accurate by doing the necessary checks themselves. Readers may also find this information disturbing:

Product	Claimed Origin	Bar Code	Country of Origin	Original or Fake
Laroscorbine Platinium Vit C+ Collagen	France	3421357	France	Identical product as Laroscorbine, therefore this number is a Fake Number
Sentien Cell	UK	5130482 991882773	Does Not Exist Voucher codes	Fake Number
Vitacicol Forte P3000	USA	9761187610318	Does Not Exist	Fake Number
Cell Roma	Italy	No Number	Does Not Exist	No Number
Oxydermal	Germany	No Number	Does Not Exist	No Number
Prolene	Germany	No Number	Does Not Exist	No Number
Kojic Acid	Japan	9987164432453332	Voucher Codes	Fake Number
Tationil Bayer	Italy	No Number	Does Not Exist	Fake Number

Vitacicol (Green Box)	USA	8993156006120	Indonesia	Fake Number
Biome		5997001311783	Hungary	Fake Number
NC24	Japan	2987174436423	Internal use	Fake Number
Lucchini	Switzerland	No Number	Does Not Exist	No Number
MF3 HP 230mg	Switzerland	8360926794301	Italy	Fake Number
MF3 Advance Formula	Switzerland	5232918799527	Does Not Exist	Fake Number (number does not exist but this product is registered in Malaysia)

# Some products which are tested and confirmed original:

(however, repackaged products might also imitate the original barcodes, so please be cautious and only buy from the seller you trust!- you can also compare the products from the original items- differences such as hologram stickers, the form of the liquids, the smells, the quality of the ampoule bottles, and the texture of the contents)

Product	Claimed	Bar Code	Country	Original
	Origin		of Origin	or Fake
Tathion 500	South Korea	8806425034543	South Korea	Original
Vit C Bayer (Laroscorbine)	France	3421357	France	Original
Gerovital	Romania	594470705002141	Romania	Original
Lipostabil	Germany	PZN 3352900	German Pharmaceuticals	Original

Wiedemann Homookomplex	Germany	PZN 0507265	German Pharmaceuticals	Original
Wiedemann Vit B12	Germany	PZN 2260834	German Pharmaceuticals	Original
Melsmon	Korea	TBA	Korea	Original
Melsmon	Japan	4987546000014	Japan	Original
Tationil Teofarma	Italy	A 026185049	Italian Pharma	Original
Mita C	Japan	4987154434423	Japan	Original

Source: Vivie Beauty Shack Malaysia , 2013