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Three more adverse reactions reported after use of herbal drug

(Xinhua)

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HARBIN - Three people became sick in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province after being injected with a herbal drug that has been implicated in one death in another part of the country.

The patients used Shuanghuanglian to cure a cold and developed "normal adverse reactions", said Li Jun, spokesman of Heilongjiang Provincial Food and Drug Administration.

They had no life-threatening symptoms, he said.

Li refused to specify on the identities of the patients, the drug's producer or the dates of the injections.

Normal adverse reactions include a rash, breathing difficulties, localized pain, or shock. Severe reactions may lead to death, according to the directions of a Shuanghuanglian producer.

The herb has been blamed for sickening two other patients in northwest China's Qinghai Province. They developed fevers and breathing difficulties Wednesday after being injected with Shuanghuanglian made by the Jiamusi factory of the Wusuli River Pharmacy in Heilongjiang.

A 62-year-old woman died. The other people were still in critical condition Saturday at the Qinghai People's Hospital.

After the death, the Ministry of Health and the State Food and Drug Administration urged all hospitals and drug stores to suspend the use and sales of the product made by Jiamusi factory.

Shuanghuanglian injections are used to treat fever and coughs caused by colds.

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