

Research and Test Reports

67 product testing, survey and research reports were published in CHOICE Magazine during the year under review⁸. Testing covered a wide range of product categories, including electrical appliances

and consumer electronics, daily food items, software, personal and household products. When products were found to be noncompliant with mandatory or established international standards, the Council notified regulatory bodies concerned to facilitate immediate follow-up. The Council also called on manufacturers and their agents to rectify faults and improve their products. Over the years, the Council's product research and testing, as well as its follow-up actions, have proven effective for facilitating enforcement and fostering the development of legislative measures to further protect the consumers.

Research & Test Reports 研究及測試報告

研究及測試報告

《選擇》月刊於本年度發表的產品 測試、調查及研究報告共67份8, 涵蓋廣泛的產品類別,包括電器 及電子產品、日常食品、電腦軟 件、個人及家居產品。當發現產 品未能符合相關法例規定或適用 的國際標準,本會會通知政府相 關部門即時跟進,並建議生產商 及其代理商糾正及改善產品。多 年來,本會的產品研究、測試及 跟進工作,均有效加強規管及推 動相關的立法工作,以進一步保 障消費者的權益。

Types of Product Tests

The Council's product tests published in CHOICE Magazine are the results of either Council's own initiatives or partnership with various Government and statutory bodies. As an active member of International Consumer Research & Testing (ICRT), which is an international consortium of more than 35 consumer organisations, the Council has benefited from joinng ICRT in its product tests, through which resources and experience from other markets may be applied effectively.

產品測試種類

《選擇》月刊公布的產品測試一般可分為由 本會自發安排進行,或聯同不同的政府部門 及法定團體進行。同時,本會作為國際消費 者研究及試驗組織(ICRT)的成員,亦會參與 其主辦的聯合測試。ICRT由世界各地超過35 個消費者組織組成,透過聯合測試,本會得 以有效運用其他市場的資源和經驗。

⁸ See Appendix 6 for the list of product testing, in-depth study and market survey reports published during 2016-17. 於2016-17年度公布的產品測試、研究及市場調查報告一覽表見附錄六。



Food

ESBL-producing Bacteria in Chicken Products

To continue to raise the community's awareness of the global health threat from antimicrobial resistant bacteria, the Council, for the first time, tested 100 samples of chicken products sold in the market, including whole chickens and chicken wings, to establish whether they contained extended-spectrum beta-lactamase(ESBL)-producing bacteria and to gauge public exposure. The test found that over 60% of chickens including 6 labelled "organic", among 100 tested, were found to contain ESBL-producing bacteria. Samples from Mainland China and Hong Kong revealed presence of the bacteria at 80% or higher.

To safeguard consumers' health, the Council advises the public to cook chicken more thoroughly instead of "just right", and to remain vigilant when buying, cleaning, storing, marinating and cooking chicken, to minimise the risk of cross-contamination in the food preparation. Consumers should also be aware that "organic" certification accredits the rearing or production process of chickens, but it does not attest to the final quality of the product that goes to the consumer. The products may become contaminated after being slaughtered.

The Council also expressed the hope that the Government's High-level Steering Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance, would make pragmatic suggestions and take a three-pronged approach, to review the current legislation in respect of regulations, healthcare and hygiene, and the rearing of food animals. The Council also recommended that authorities gradually cease to issue permits for regular use of antibiotics, and eventually to restrict use of antibiotics to situations in which they are prescribed for medical reasons, by veterinarians.

食品

雞肉產品含ESBL耐藥細菌

為加強公眾對耐藥性細菌危害全球公共衞生的關注,本會首次測試市面出售的100款雞肉產品,包括整隻雞及雞翼,驗測含ESBL耐藥腸桿菌科細菌的情況,以了解消費者日常購買的雞肉產品有多大機會帶有該細菌。結果測試發現,超過6成檢出含ESBL耐藥細菌,當中包括6款標示或聲稱為「有機」的雞肉樣本;而內地及本地的樣本更有接近8成或以上。

為保障消費者健康,本會建議香港人改變將雞肉煮得「剛剛好」的飲食習慣,進食前必須把雞肉徹底煮熟,在選購、清洗、儲存、醃製和烹調雞肉時時刻保持警覺,務求把預備食物過程中交叉感染的風險降至最低。消費者亦應留意所謂「有機」認證只是確認了雞隻的飼養或生產過程,並不保證產品的最終品質,因為產品有可能在屠宰後才被污染。

本會希望政府成立的「抗菌素耐藥性高層督導 委員會」可提供有效的建議,從法規、醫療衞 生和飼養食用牲畜三方面檢討現行法例。同 時,建議當局逐步停止簽發常規使用抗生素的 許可證,務求令抗生素最終只可在獸醫處方下 作治療用途。

Soy Sauce

In Chinese culinary culture, soy sauce and seasonings are common condiments that, with an appropriate amount added, can draw out the umami of foods. From the Council's tests on 38 soy sauces and 2 seasonings, it was found that 11 soy sauce samples contained possible traces of the carcinogen, 4-methylimidazole. The aerobic colony count of 1 soy sauce sample greatly exceeded the limit under the Mainland standard. 2 samples contained high monosodium glutamate content and the quality of 10 soy sauce samples failed to meet the quality grading standard.

In terms of sodium content, 39 out of 40 samples contained a high level of 2,600 to 9,970 mg sodium in every 100ml. Only 1 sample had a relatively low sodium content of 814mg. By consuming 20ml of the highest sodium content sample, one would reach the recommended daily sodium intake limit (2,000mg).

The Council advised consumers to choose naturally brewed products with soybean, wheat, and bran listed among the first few ingredients on the labels and pay attention to raw materials, including the presence of colourants and other additives. Consumers should also note that excessive sodium intake increases the risk of hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke and coronary heart disease.

Electrical Products

Power Extension Sockets

The Council tested safety level of 12 electrical extensions containing 6 sockets and individual switches. Prices of the extensions ranged from HK\$99 to HK\$169.

None of the test models were in full compliance with the latest international safety standards. 10 samples were found unsatisfactory in the switch test, while 7 failed in the socket endurance test. Short circuit occurred during the socket endurance test in 1 model and the fuse of the power supply was blown. Other failures of compliance regarding product safety were found in the heating, insulation distance and socket construction etc. Following action by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), 3 models were recalled voluntarily by their suppliers.

Electronic Products

Television Sets

The Council conducted its first test on 48- to 50-inch, big screen TV sets and compared picture and sound quality, ease of use, multimedia playback, functionality and energy efficiency. Prices of the tested samples ranged from HK\$3,888 to HK\$14,980. The results revealed that not only did the picture quality of the models vary, the sound quality also showed significant variance.

7 Ultra HD models achieved higher scores in overall performance. The Council reminded consumers that they may consider purchasing Ultra HD models to pursue personal interest, or to wait until the Ultra HD materials become more widely available.

醬油

在中國飲食文化中,醬油和鮮露都是烹調時常用的調味品,適量添加可以帶出食物的鮮味。本會測試38款醬油和2款鮮露,發現11款醬油樣本含微量可能致癌物質4-甲基咪唑,1款醬油樣本的菌落總數更遠超內地標準上限,2款樣本的味精含量較高。同時,有10款醬油樣本未達到品質評級水平。

鈉含量方面,40款樣本中,39款鈉含量偏高,由每100毫升含2,600至9,970毫克不等,只有1款樣本驗出相對較低的814毫克。最高鈉含量的1款,如進食20毫升,已達一天鈉攝取量的建議上限(2,000毫克)。



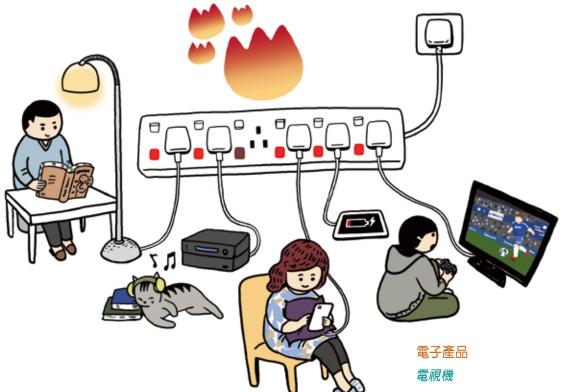
本會建議消費者選購天然釀造的醬油,盡量選用成分表中大豆、小麥、麩皮等排在較前位置的產品,並留意成分表的原材料、色素及其他添加劑。消費者應注意食用份量,過量攝取鈉會增加患高血壓、心血管疾病、中風和冠心病的風險。

電器產品

拖板

本會測試了12款6位插座連獨立開關掣的拖板的安全性,售價介乎\$99至\$169。

所有樣本均未能完全符合最新的國際安全標準要求。10款樣本的開關掣不符合標準要求,7款則未能通過插座耐用程度的測試。其中1款於插座耐用程度的測試途中出現短路,電源供應器的保險絲亦熔斷。其他安全問題還涉及過熱、絕緣距離及插座結構等。經機電工程署跟進後,3款樣本的供應商已自願從市面上回收產品。



Some sets produced blurred or shaky images when there was movement by the camera, such as panning shots or zooms. Other TV sets were equipped with dynamic picture enhancement functions, to create a smooth presentation.

From evaluation by a panel of experts, 4 of the Ultra HD models scored 4 points or above in sound quality, on the basis of their clear sound reproduction, full and mellow tones and impactful bass. On the other hand, the 4 Full HD models all were judged to have flat sound reproduction, with audio dropouts either in low-or high-frequency sounds.

Despite the many functions available, some sets fell short when assessed for ease of use. Since the price and value of these models, and their warranty periods differ, the Council advised consumers to compare the TV sets carefully in selecting the right one to fit their home requirements.

Household Products

Gas Stoves

The Council conducted tests on 18 models of gas stoves and found that 3 models failed to meet the full safety requirements stipulated under the Basic Safety Assessment for Domestic Gas Appliances, formulated by EMSD. The calculated value based on test results of 2 built-in models and 1 table-top model powered by town gas exceeded the limit by 1.4 to 1.6 times. The test results were referred to EMSD for follow-up. Subsequently, the related importers took remedial action by contacting affected consumers to arrange free checking and rectification services. The importers also posted notices in newspapers announcing the service arrangement. The Council reminded consumers to ensure adequate ventilation when using gas stoves, to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide accumulation.

本會首次測試48至50吋的大屏幕電視機,測試了畫質、音質、使用方便程度、多媒體播放、多功能程度及省電程度,樣本的售價介乎港幣3,888至14,980元,結果發現各樣本的畫質參差,音色亦表現懸殊。

7款超高清樣本總評較佳,本會提醒消費者可根據個人興趣或待超高清製作逐漸普及,才決定是 否以較高價錢選購超高清電視。

另外,一般電視機在顯示鏡頭轉移及動作畫面時, 會顯得不清晰或不順暢。部分產品設有動態影像優 化功能,營造暢順的感覺。

音質測試由專家評分,其中4款超高清樣本,具備音質清晰、音樂柔和悦耳,低音夠重等優點;另外4款全高清樣本,則被指播放的聲音薄弱沉悶,甚至只有中音,沒有高低音,音質令人失望。

儘管測試的樣本功能多多,但部分並不方便使用。 由於價格、質素及保用期各有差異,本會建議消費 者小心比較及慎選適合自己家居的電視機。

家居產品

氣體煮食爐

本會測試18款氣體煮食爐,發現3款型號未能完全符合機電工程署制定的「住宅式氣體用具基本安全評估」規定的安全要求。有2款煤氣嵌入式和1款煤氣座枱式樣本的測試結果顯示,超出規定上限約1.4至1.6倍不等。本會將測試結果轉交機電工程署跟進。其後,有關的進口商採取補救措施,包括聯絡受影響的消費者安排免費檢查及修正服務,並在報章刊登通告宣布有關安排。本會提醒消費者在使用氣體煮食爐時,必須確保有足夠空氣流通,以減低一氧化碳積聚的機會。

Cosmetics and Personal Care

Intradermal Microinjection

Intradermal microinjection procedure involves skin puncture and injection, it is classified as invasive and should only be performed by registered doctors. It is a cosmetic procedure claimed to produce visible aesthetic effects in skin hydration, whitening, rejuvenation and facial contouring by injecting mixtures of substances directly into the dermis. But improper or unsafe injection procedures, may have serious consequences such as allergic reaction, infection or permanent scarring.



The Council's survey revealed that the safety factors of some injectables were questionable and the injection procedure itself was perilous. The websites of some 30 beauty salons were examined in detail and only 10 clearly stated that the procedures would be performed by registered doctors.

Injectables commonly used, included hyaluronic acid, botulinum toxin, Vitamin C, placenta extracts and growth factor. Only a few beauty salons, however, disclosed the brand names of the injectables they used. Consumers should beware that receiving injections of unknown ingredients may cause serious, adverse effects and pose health risks.

The Council urged medical beauty operators to increase information transparency in all aspects and consumers should also be cautioned on all the steps involving the procedure. The Council urged the enforcement agency to scale up its enforcement to mitigate those non-compliance and malpractice found.

Bath Products

The Council tested 60 models of bath products. 1 model of bath lotion was found to contain an aerobic bacterial count (170,000 CFU per ml) exceeding the upper limit of the Mainland Hygienic Standard for Cosmetics, by 169 times. The molds and yeast count (2,900 CFU per ml) were 28 times higher than the permissible upper limit. The bath lotion also failed the preservative efficacy test.

Consumers must beware that using any bath products with microbial contamination, may pose greater risks of causing infection on the skin, eyes and intimate areas.

2 models (out of 7) of feminine washes were found to contain the allergy-causing preservative, methylisothiazolinone (MIT). Wounds on ladies' private parts, could become irritated and uncomfortable, after using products containing MIT.

In addition, the test also revealed that 2 of the products found to contain MIT or CMIT/MIT mixture in the test did not disclose those ingredients on their labels. The product suppliers were urged to review their labelling, to ensure the product ingredients are listed accurately, for consumers' reference.

美容及個人護理

水光槍注射

水光槍注射是涉及皮膚穿刺並注入物質的入侵性 美容程序,只應由註冊醫生施行。此服務聲稱可 以配合不同針劑直接注射入真皮層,從而達到補 濕、美白、嫩膚和提升面部輪廓等功效。不過, 不當或不安全的注射程序,可能產生過敏、感 染,甚或造成永久性疤痕等嚴重後果。

本會的研究發現部分針劑的安全性成疑,而且整個注射程序風險重重。研究檢視了30多間有提供相關服務的美容中心網頁,發現只有10間有清楚説明程序會由註冊醫生負責。

至於普遍使用的針劑有透明質酸、肉毒桿菌毒素、維他命C、胎盤精華和生長因子等,但只有部分美容中心網頁有説明所用針劑的品牌。消費者須注意,接受注射成分不明的針劑可能產生嚴重的不良反應及構成健康風險。

本會敦促美容從業員必須對注射程序涉及的各個 範疇提高資訊透明度,消費者亦需小心留意注射 程序的每個步驟。同時,本會呼籲相關監管機關 加強執法,以遏止違規及不當行為。

沐浴產品

本會測試了60款沐浴產品,發現1款樣本檢出菌落總數(每毫升170,000 CFU)超過內地化妝品衛生規範上限的169倍,霉菌和酵母菌總數(每毫升2,900 CFU)同樣較上限高28倍。該款沐浴產品亦未能通過防腐效能測試。

消費者須留意,如果使用受微生物污染的沐浴 產品,有機會增加皮膚、眼睛和敏感部位受感 染的風險。

此外,7款女性潔膚液樣本中,有2款檢出可致敏防腐劑甲基異噻唑啉酮(MIT)。倘使用者的私密部位有傷口,選用含有 MIT的產品可能增加引起不適反應的機會。



Moisturisers

The Council conducted tests on moisturising day creams (for normal to combination skin types), jointly with ICRT. Approximately 530 women, aged between 25 and 66 were invited to test sampled products' moisturising effects over a period of 4 weeks. Findings showed that



most moisturisers delivered satisfactory results in terms of skin moisturising efficacy, but those sold at higher prices did not, necessarily, produce better results. The highest-priced (HK\$2,700) and the lowest-priced (HK\$108) models attained both 2.5 points in their moisturising efficacy.

Aside from the product's moisturising efficacy, product ingredients should not be overlooked. Consumers should examine the listed ingredients closely for substances that may trigger skin allergies

or irritation. These include fragrance allergens, preservatives, alcohol, and even endocrine disrupting chemicals (such as cyclomethicone). Consumers were advised to select a product that fits their best on skin types and conditions, climate and expected outcome.

測試另發現2款有檢出MIT或CMIT/MIT混合物的 樣本,其產品標籤成分列表上並沒有標示含有相 關成分。本會促請代理商檢視產品的標籤資料, 以確保消費者能參閱正確標籤。

保濕面霜

本會聯同ICRT測試保濕面霜(中性/正常至混合性膚質適用),約530位年齡介乎25至66歲的試用者參與為期4星期的試驗,發現大部分樣本的保濕效果良好,但並非價錢越貴、或使用時的觸感越良好,代表功效越佳。價錢最高(港幣2,700元)和最低(港幣108元)的樣本,在保濕效能方面同獲2.5分。

除了重視面霜的保濕效果外,產品的成分資料亦不容忽視。消費者宜細閱產品列出的成分資料,確定當中有否常見可能引致皮膚過敏和刺激反應的成分,包括容易導致皮膚過敏的香料、防腐劑、酒精,甚至可能干擾內分泌的化學物質。消費者宜按個人膚質、皮膚狀況、氣候和護膚期望作出選擇。

Naming of Shops Involved in Selling Counterfeit Drugs

Since 2011, the Council has collaborated with the Customs and Excise Department, to publish names of shops involved in the sale of counterfeit drugs, once cases are concluded. The main offences were the use of forged trademarks on drugs sold as genuine items, or supplying drugs with false trade descriptions, in which, the actual ingredients were inconsistent with the labelling.

In 2016, convictions for selling counterfeit drugs involved 20 shops, 9 companies and 24 individuals were convicted. Penalties in most cases were limited to fines. In 1 case a salesperson, company director and the company operating the shop were fined a total of HK\$98,000. 1 shop owner was jailed 14 days in another case. Some other shopkeepers or shop owners were given prison sentences of 2 weeks to 6 months, suspended for 1 to 3 years. Another 5 individuals were ordered to carry out community service. The maximum service time imposed was 240 hours.

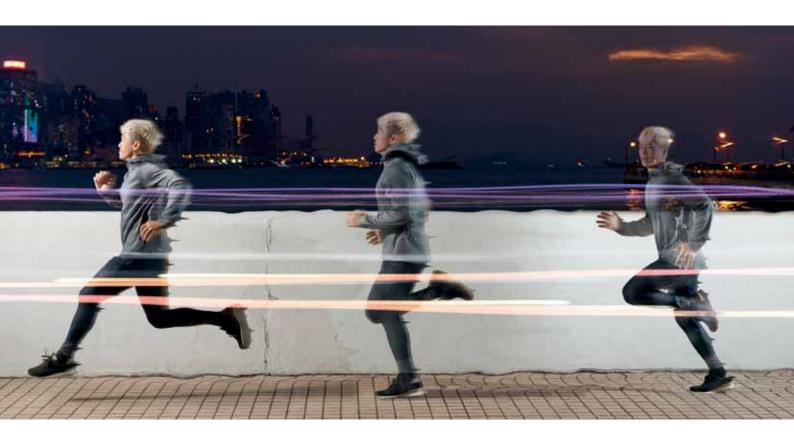
The naming mechanism helps to alert consumers to unscrupulous traders and the drugs involved. The mechanism also serves as a deterrent to other shops that the reputation of their shops is at risk if they sell counterfeit drugs.

公布涉及售賣偽冒藥物店舖名單

自2011年起,本會與香港海關合作,公開涉及出售偽冒藥物而案件在 法庭已審結的店舗名單。個案涉及的 罪行主要為「應用偽冒商標」以假亂 真,或「應用虛假商品説明」,即藥 物成分與標籤不符。

2016年內審理完結的售賣偽冒藥物案件共涉及20間店舗,有9間公司及24人被判罰,主要是罰款。其中一宗案件的售貨員、公司董事及經營該店舖的公司共罰款港幣98,000元。另一宗案件的店東被判監禁14日,亦有個別店舖負責人或店東被判監禁2星期至6個月,但獲准緩刑1至3年。另有5人被判社會服務令,服務時數最長達240小時。

公開店舖名稱機制讓市民大眾取得涉 案的不良店舖及藥物資料,於選購時 能提高警覺。同時對其他藥店也會產 生阻嚇作用,警剔因售賣偽冒藥物而 令商譽受損之風險。



Clothing Products

Running Tights

The Council's test on 15 models of running tights produced variable performance results for water vapour permeability, water absorbency, sweat wicking and quick drying. In the tested models, 5 showed better performance, keeping the wearer dry and comfortable while exercising.

The capabilities and performance of running tights in terms of water absorption, sweat-wicking and quick drying, affect moisture management and help maintain the body temperature of the runner, while also affecting his/her comfort. The findings revealed that 9 models performed well, absorbing a drop of water (0.05ml) within 3 seconds, with the fastest took only 1 second, but the slowest took about 3 minutes to absorb one droplet.

The drying time of the 15 models ranged from 102 to 520 minutes for tights to dry thoroughly, after becoming soaked. Wearing apparel with poor performance in sweat wicking and quick drying may cause itchiness or skin rash.

The Council advised consumers to read the fibre label and tags on the tights, if they bear wording like "moisture management", "quick dry", "stay dry", etc., or indicating composition of synthetic fibre like polyester or nylon, they are more likely to be efficient at sweat wicking and quick drying. If the fibre label shows cotton only, or cotton composition exceeding 50%, the tights may perform less efficiently in this aspect.

服裝產品

跑步緊身褲

本會測試15款跑步緊身褲,測試發現樣本在透水 氣、吸濕、排汗快乾等表現參差。測試樣本中,5 款的透水氣性能較佳,使穿著者於運動時感覺通 爽及舒適。

緊身褲的排汗快乾性能(吸水、水分傳導及水分蒸發的速度),有助跑者在運動時保持適當的體溫,同時亦影響其舒適度。而測試結果發現,樣本間的吸水表現參差,9款樣本在3秒內便能將0.05毫升的水分完全吸收,而最快的樣本更只需1秒;惟最慢的1款則需時約3分鐘。

15款樣本由濕透至完全乾透,需時由102至520 分鐘不等。穿著排汗快乾性能較差的衣物,有機 會因汗水積聚而使皮膚痕癢或出現紅疹。

本會建議消費者在購買跑步緊身褲時,檢視褲上的成分標籤及掛牌上的資料,如有「吸濕排汗」、「快乾」、「保持乾燥」等字樣,或標示成分為人造纖維,如聚酯纖維、尼龍等,代表排汗快乾性能可能較佳。若成分標示為全棉或棉纖維比例超過50%,其排汗快乾性能可能較遜色。

Health Issues

Series of Articles on Medicine and Health Care

A series of educational articles was published to heighten consumer awareness on the proper use of drugs and medication, in collaboration with various medical and healthcare professional associations, colleges and experts in Hong Kong.

Articles covered pneumococcal vaccines, gout, traditional medicines for infertility, patches and ointment for scars, common cold medications and misuse of antibiotics, thyroid diseases, genetic testing and wheelchair selection tips for the elderly. Medical and healthcare experts were invited to give advice. The advice covered pharmacological effects and use of the ingredients of drugs and products and how to avoid possible side effects and problems that may arise if drugs, products or services were used improperly.

International Comparative Tests

During the year under review, the Council stepped up collaboration with ICRT and joined forces with consumer associations in other jurisdictions, to conduct international comparative tests on:

- Audio-visual and optical products including vinyl record players, bluetooth speakers, digital cameras, interchangeable lens camera kits and action camcorders;
- Computer and telecommunication products, comprising internet security software, cloud storage, external hard disk drives, smartphones, tablet PCs;
- Automobiles, road vehicles, and related products, including folding bikes and baby strollers;
- Household, personal and travel products, such as bathroom scales, highchairs for toddlers, espresso makers, robot vacuum cleaners, and moisturising day creams; and
- Sports products including fitness tracker wristbands and running apps for smartphones.

Of the tests conducted, the report on moisturising day creams turned out to be highly popular among CHOICE Magazine readers. The test results on cameras, mobile phones and fitness tracker wristbands, meanwhile, were viewed by a significant number of visitors to the Council's Shopsmart website, targeting tourists from Mainland China.

International comparative tests make efficient use of resources and many test results offer useful and practical purchase advice to consumers, particularly for more expensive or durable products.

健康

醫藥系列

本會經常與本港不同的醫藥專業團體、學院和專 家等合作,發佈關於疾病和藥物的教育性文章, 以提高消費者的保健知識。

文章內容涵蓋肺炎鏈球菌疫苗、痛風、不孕的中醫治療、除疤貼及除疤藥膏、傷風感冒與誤用抗生素、甲狀腺疾病、基因測試及為長者選購輪椅等。由醫藥專家介紹藥物及產品的用法和藥理成效,及如何防止因誤用藥物、產品或服務而可能出現的副作用及問題。

國際性產品比較測試

年內,本會加強與ICRT及其他地區的消費者組織合作,進行國際性產品比較測試,有關產品包括:

- 影音及光學產品 黑膠碟唱盤、藍牙揚聲器、數碼相機、可換鏡頭相機套裝及動作攝錄機;
- 電腦及通訊產品 一網絡安全軟件、雲端寄存服務、外置硬碟機、智能手機及平板電腦;
- 汽車、道路車輛及 相關產品 - 摺合單 車、嬰孩手推車;
- 運動用品 運動 手環及智能手機運 動應用程式。



其中保濕面霜的測試報告,深受《選擇》月刊讀者歡迎。而相機、手機及運動手環測試報告,則成為專為內地旅客而設的「精明消費香港遊」網站的熱門瀏覽。

國際性的產品比較測試,不單讓本會更有效運用 資源,還為消費者提供實用的購買建議,特別是 針對價格較昂貴或耐用的產品。