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**The Hong Kong Medical Association**

FOUNDED IN 1925-INCORPORATED IN 1960 AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
MEMBER OF WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA & OCEANIA

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LC Paper No. CB(2)1840/05-06(02)

## **Submission to Health Services Panel of Legislative Council**

At the Special Meeting on Thursday, 27 April 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building to discuss the use of Polyacrylamde Gel (PAAG) for breast augmentation purpose

The Hong Kong Medical Association is very much concerned about the current situation whereby anybody can inject anything without long-term proof of its efficacy and safety into the body of others. While implantable medical devices like cardiac pacemakers are scrutinized, lubricants injected into the knee and PAAG into the breast are not.

Before Government can control this by appropriate legislation, the public must be educated about the risk of injecting anything into the body, like infection (including AIDS and hepatitis B), inflammatory reaction, toxic effect of the injected matter, etc. The public should also understand that invasive procedures on human body should only be handled by doctors, dentists and nurses.

We, therefore, recommend that:

- The Use of Polyacrylamide Gel (PAAG) for breast augmentation should be prohibited without knowledge of its long-term effect on human being.
- Subcutaneous injection of Polyacrylamide Gel (PAAG) should be done by trained registered medical practitioners only. Likewise invasive medical equipment like lasers, IPLs, should also be done by trained registered medical practitioners only.
- Government should consider regulating the use of invasive procedures to safeguard the health of the public. Anything that is to be injected, or implanted into the body has to be registered, and proven to be harmless with the burden of proof on the manufacturer. And, this kind of procedures, no matter by needle or by knife, should be considered as a surgical procedure, and should be carried out by a registered medical practitioner.

25 April 2006