

INTERNATIONAL SOURCING is studying ingredients of marine plants that, according to Larry Smith, impart interesting characteristics to creams, lotions and other skin care products. He thinks non-animal derived materials will be incorporated more frequently in formulas and told huppi that ISI is developing plant-derived ceramides at high concentration levels. "The natural movement is stronger than ever," insists Mr. Smith "Unfortunately, naturals are not being incorporated at the levels necessary to make them effective. Marketers must understand that you just can't waive the chicken over the pot to make chicken soup!"

happi - May 1993

Overcharging for lab tests

ORLANDO, Fla (AP) -- The state medical association on Friday criticized a study that found clinical labs owned by doctors perform nearly twice as many tests as other facilities, and at double the cost.

The Florida Medical Association accused the study's authors of bias and of interjecting editorial remarks while ignoring statistical data that contradicted their conclusions.

"The authors fail to include that banning physician owners of health-care providers would reduce competition and raise costs," said Dr. Charles P. Hayes Jr., an FMA member who presented the rebuttal to the study.

The study released Aug. 8 was based on 2,669 questionnaires distributed to nine kinds of medical centers owned by doctors, including nursing homes, labs, radiation therapy and diagnostic imaging centers. Imaging centers offer X-rays, CAT scans, ultrasound tests and magnetic resonance imaging.

The study found that labs owned by physicians charged an average \$43 per patient, compared to \$20 per patient charged by other labs.

Talcum trouble

LONG-TERM use of talcum powder around the genitals has been linked to an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

Researchers from America's Harvard University have warned that women should be discouraged from using talc as part of their daily genital hygiene.

They found women with epithelial ovarian tumors were significantly more likely to have regularly used talc powder around their genitals than a control group.

The researchers said that talc was not a major cause of ovarian cancer but was believed to account for about 10 percent of cases.

-ANITA CATALANO

THE SUN-HERALD, February 14, 1993 147

Fish-Oil Targeted for Prop. 65 Violation

REDWAY, Calif.- Nineteen California-based fish oil manufacturers were recently targeted by private enforcers for violation of the state's Proposition 65

In mid-July, the Pacific Justice Center (PJC), on behalf of the Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation, sent correspondence to these companies and the California Attorney General's office alleging that their fish oil products were in violation of Prop. 65 due to the presence of approximately 20 chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in humans.

This action triggered a 60-day period during which the companies had the opportunity to present evidence that they were not in violation and/or the Attorney General could determine whether it would pursue

enforcement of the proposition and commence litigation. However, the Attorney General's office and the PJC have reached an agreement granting an open-ended extension of time within which the Attorney General can file a complaint against the companies served with the letter.

According to Sue Fiering, California deputy attorney general, the compounds cited in the letter as violations were mainly pesticides and dioxins. She said no decision to prosecute has been made, but the matter is still under investigation.

Under Prop. 65, companies that sell products containing such chemicals are required to place a warning on the containers in which they are sold. Failure to warn consumers can result in fines of up to \$2500 per day.