

# FDA widens warning for contaminated eye products

February 22 2023, by Cara Murez

---



Stop buying or using Delsam Pharma's Artificial Eye Ointment, the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration [warned](#) Wednesday.

The over-the-counter product is made by the same company that makes [eye drops](#) that were [recalled](#) earlier this year amid an outbreak of a highly drug-resistant bacteria that has hospitalized and blinded patients.

Those products, which include EzriCare and Delsam Pharma artificial tears, are manufactured and exported by the Indian company Global Pharma Healthcare Private Limited.

The FDA faulted the company for multiple violations, and has banned imports of the company's items into the United States, *CBS News* reported.

It's not clear what prompted the most recent warning, *CBS News* said.

At least 16 patients had been hospitalized earlier for an outbreak of the "rare, extensively drug-resistant" *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria, a strain that had not been seen in the United States before. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a nationwide health alert about the bacteria.

The outbreak involved patients in 12 states. Five were permanently blinded. One had to have an eyeball surgically removed, *CBS News* reported. A patient in Washington state died when the infection spread to the bloodstream.

Federal investigators found opened EzriCare eye drops contaminated with the bacteria at the homes of multiple patients. However, three unopened bottles did not have signs of contamination. Investigators are testing more bottles.

Most patients bought the drops online, though one reported buying it in a

Costco warehouse, *CBS News* reported.

The Delsam Pharma Artificial Eye Ointment is still listed for sale on several websites, including Amazon, *CBS News* reported.

**More information:** The U.S. National Library of Medicine has [more](#) on the bacteria involved in the recent outbreak.

Copyright © 2023 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: FDA widens warning for contaminated eye products (2023, February 22) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-02-fda-widens-contaminated-eye-products.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.