



<b>Title</b>	<b>Tea Tree Oil as Topical Antiseptic</b>
<b>Agency</b>	MaHTAS, Health Technology Assessment Section, Ministry of Health Malaysia Level 4, Block E1, Parcel E, Presint 1, Federal Government Administrative Center, 62590 Putrajaya, Malaysia; Tel: +603 88831229, Fax: +603 88831230; htamalaysia@moh.gov.my, www.moh.gov.my
<b>Reference</b>	Technology Review Report, 019/2008. <a href="http://medicaldev.moh.gov.my/uploads/19.tea.pdf">http://medicaldev.moh.gov.my/uploads/19.tea.pdf</a>

## Aim

To assess the safety, effectiveness, and cost effectiveness of tea tree oil as topical antiseptic.

## Conclusions and results

Poor-level evidence indicated that tea tree oil could cause systemic and dermatological toxicity and gynecomastia in prepubertal boys. No evidence was retrievable regarding approval of tea tree oil by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Evidence was insufficient to show the effectiveness of tea tree oil as topical antiseptic. No evidence was retrievable on the cost effectiveness of tea tree oil as topical antiseptic.

## Recommendations

Based on the review, tea tree oil is not recommended for routine use as a topical antiseptic in hospitals until further evidence can be obtained from good-quality clinical research.

## Methods

Databases searched included: PubMed, Ovid Full Text, Cochrane database of systematic reviews, Cochrane Central Register for Controlled Trials, HTA databases, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website, and Google. Additional articles were identified by reviewing the bibliographies of retrieved articles and from documents submitted by a company. Relevant articles were appraised and evidence was graded according to the US/Canadian Preventive Services Task Force.