

Gujarat: Spurious favipiravir sold after creating fake prescription

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AHMEDABAD: Counterfeit medicines finding their way into leading online pharmacy stores is emerging as a major concern for the [Gujarat Food and Drugs Control Administration](#) (FDCA). On Thursday, the [FDCA](#) seized more than 4,950 counterfeit tablets of the antiviral drug favipiravir — consisting mainly of starch — being sold under the brand name '[Favimax-400](#)'. [FDCA officials](#) traced the tablets to an online pharmacy's warehouse in Vejalpur.

An FDCA official posed as a buyer on the online platform and the online pharmacy even confirmed the order. The investigation allegedly also exposed the underbelly of the online pharmacy business, which even went to the extent of generating fake doctor's prescriptions to sell [scheduled drugs](#) online.

As for the online pharmacy, [Gujarat FDCA](#) officials first placed an order worth Rs 1,791 for Favimax-400 that was advertised on the online store. "Our official posing as a patient received a call from an online doctor in Bangalore who was ready to prescribe the drug to us. This is a serious lacunae and needs regulating in online pharmacies," says Gujarat FDCA chief H G Koshia.

Gujarat FDCA officials also say that the kingpin of the fake favipiravir racket Sudip Mukherji was being questioned in Mumbai by their [Maharashtra](#) counterparts. Koshia added, "The kingpin Sudip Mukherji is being questioned in Mumbai for more information on how many stockists in the country were sold the pills."

Gujarat FDCA officials traced four doctors — Dr Chetan Gautam, Dr Surabhi Bansal, Dr M Navin Kumar and Dr Shweta B — who were posing as consultants and prescribing the counterfeit favipiravir to patients in Ahmedabad. The online pharmacy had procured the Favimax-400 stock of 4,900 tablets from Paawan Pharma in Ghatlodia, which in turn procured the tablets from two stores — Parshv Medical Stores in Satara and Shiv Shrushti Surgimed in Goregaon (East) in Mumbai.

"We are investigating the malpractices followed by online pharmacies. We suspect many prescription drugs are being sold through dubious processes," says Koshia.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/spurious-favipiravir-sold-after-creating-fake-prescription/articleshow/83215897.cms>