



A Pile of Valuable
"Souvenirs" from Turkey

Turkish Primobolan Depot...

BY RONNY TOBER Due to the high prevalence of counterfeit Spanish Primobolan on the black market, and the increasing price and limited availability of real Primobolan ampules, a good number of European bodybuilders are making it a point to vacation in Turkey these days, one of the few remaining reliable sources for real Schering "Primo".

In this country steroids are cheap, and easily purchased without prescription. Turkey has a lot of small mom-and-pop pharmacies where the individual bodybuilder can pick and choose his or her cycle in peace, all the while being served by a friendly pharmacist who is very happy to have discovered this new source of income. To spite its less than bountiful market, Turkey is definitely a steroid vacationer's paradise.

The fame of Turkish Primobolan has been spreading. What most people do not know, however, is that Turkey has a limited license to produce this drug. They are only allowed to manufacture and sell a certain number of doses each year. This makes the Turkish Primo pipeline a tightly controlled one, and most certainly limited in supply. In the Turkish drug system in general, one finds there is no room for big smugglers and wholesalers that want to buy steroids in bulk. Once large-scale dealers started sourcing drugs here, they quickly realized that the demand for Turkish steroids, in particular

Sustanon and Primobolan, has outgrown their availability. The first counterfeits came on the market soon after. For those who follow and buy these items, they will clearly see that the same scammers that have counterfeited large quantities of Spanish Primo are now counterfeiting the Turkish product as well. You find the same mistakes and deviations on both, which we will show later in this article. The sheer abundance of Turkish Primobolan on the black market these days compels us to take a closer look at this steroid, particularly the ins and outs of how to protect oneself from counterfeits. As is usually the case, the more popular a steroid is, the more counterfeits of it you are going to see.

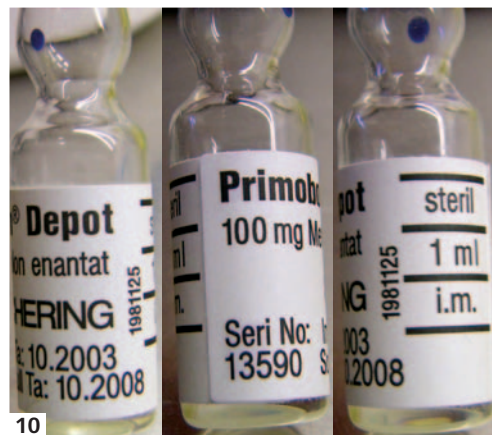
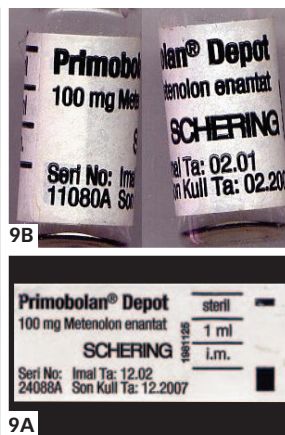
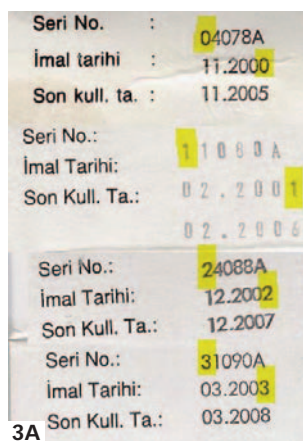
I think the best way to ensure you'll know real Turkish Primobolan when you see it is to show you a number of real vs. fake comparisons. It is in pointing out the mistakes made by the various counterfeit operations that we learn the intricacies of this steroid. Let's kick this off by taking a

look at one of the most infamous of all Turkish Primo counterfeits: Lot# 11081A (image 1, left). This product was first brought to our attention by a group of readers in Europe, who were very concerned by the excellent appearance and poor results of this steroid. We did a little research, and found that this batch was being sold in such large quantities, and for prices so low, that it just couldn't be real Schering Primobolan. We decided to step in and send a few ampules of this hotly debated steroid to the lab, to find out exactly what was in it.

Laboratory analysis showed not only that this product was devoid of methenolone enanthate, but it actually had no steroidal constituent in it at all. I guess this counterfeiting operation went to such

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expense duplicating the ampule to exacting detail that they had no money left to fill it with steroid. Make no mistake; this fake looks so good that it can be easily mistaken for the real thing, and highlights the technology of today's counterfeiters. This fake has also been produced in such high volume that it is showing up all over the world now, so everyone should be aware of it. Without having a box and insert to examine, there are only a few traits that make this steroid stand out. The cosmetic differences are so slight that you really need to know what you are looking for to spot them, and include lighter and thinner text on the fake, and the rings that are less vibrant in colour than the real ampule (image 1, right). This type of situation demonstrates the need to buy Primobolan only when it is in a box with paperwork. Although this doesn't



assure a legitimate purchase, it gives us a lot more to look at.

It should be understood that any discussion about Turkish Primo is not complete without including a look at both the newer and old style ampules. Just like with the Spanish amps, the older (before March 2000) Turkish Primobolan had the lettering printed directly on the glass (no label). Around this time, Schering was packaging Primobolan in brown glass ampules with green lettering too in certain countries (like Spain and Mexico), while in others (including Greece and Turkey) they were made of clear glass with green lettering. Since counterfeiters had already invested in duplicating the clear glass ampules of Turkish Primo, they continued to produce it after March of 2000, when the new paper labels were introduced. Image 2 shows what the real older Turkish amp looks like. Note that at this time any Turkish Primobolan product looking like this is likely to be a fake.

Let's move over to examining the numbers for a minute. Pharmaceutical companies are not random with the batch numbers and expiration dates that they use

on their boxes. There is usually logic to them, which the average individual will not notice without studying the product closely.

The counterfeiters have adapted the dates so that they could continue producing counterfeit (green) amps that were not expiring, but never bothered to change the batch number.

It is here where the counterfeiters most often screw up. When you look to the comparison picture of the flaps of the Turkish

Primobolan boxes (image 3a), you'll notice that the batch numbers start with the production year (highlighted numbers). But you also need to notice that after the appearance of Primobolan changed early 2000, all new batch numbers had letters (a, b or c) included at the end. In this picture you will see it is the letter "a". Before making your next purchase of Turkish Primobolan, it would be wise to take a quick glance at how these digits match up, and then make sure you look for these letters after the batch. Do you remember our infamous fake of Primobolan Lot# 11081A? Do you notice in image 3b that the numbers are off on this steroid? It should have been manufactured in 2001 with that batch number, not 2000!

As you can see on image 4, this test holds true for the older green lettered ampules as well. These ampules should have a batch number that starts with the year of production, as we have noted with the current style Primobolan. In the case of the ampule in the photo, the batch number begins with "9". This ampule is a perfect counterfeit. It could have fooled anyone, including us. But it didn't, because the num-



10-Pack Anyone?

the U.S.). The figures on the fake box are clearly divided wrong.

Now it would be a good time to take a look at a couple of leaflets (image 8). The first thing that draws our attention to the fake on the left, again, is the logo. You see clearly that counterfeiters are having a hard time reproducing the fine lines in the Schering logo. We also spot some other big mistakes. For instance, this leaflet has a completely different layout on both sides compared to that of the original. The structure, colour and thickness of the papers are different too. This counterfeiter probably used a simple photocopy of the original. It is pretty easy to recognize because copy paper is thicker, stiffer, and whiter than the paper used to make the real medical leaflet. It shows us again that it is worth the effort of studying all the different parts of a particular steroid's packing. We came across more deviations during this investigation, but I think you get the general idea.

A peeled off real label shown in comparison with the used ampule (image 9a and 9b) demonstrates how a label should fit on the glass. The black squares should be

tucked under the serial number and under the letter P from Primobolan. If it is hard to see with a new amp, just moisten the label a bit. Also note the batch number and date on these real labels. The first digit in the batch always matches the year of production.

One of the latest fakes fits in perfectly (image 10), because this scammer made the same mistake on the numbers. He printed 2003 as production year (Seri). Note that it should start with the number 3 because the manufacture date was in 2003. But it doesn't, it starts with a 1 instead. Also, the year of production (Imal Ta) is printed here with too many digits. It is displayed with the full year as "10.2003". On the original labels the year is always truncated, and should have been "10.03". Beside that, look at the tiny pieces of paper that are stuck on the rim on the top and bottom of the label, like they were printed on rolls and later torn apart. Another trait here, and one that turns up more and more, are the slightly curved edges of the label. The edges on real Turkish Primobolan are always straight. Remember also, by 2003 a

normal "Seri No" should consist of five figures and a letter. This fake only has five figures. This counterfeiter missed every damn thing! Can you say, clumsy?

We showed you the fake box with red lettering from the year 2000 (#040788) earlier, and like you've seen for yourself, the amps from this batch were beautiful. Well, it looks like this operation is back again. They made it easy for us to determine the fakes this time (image 11, bottom box), because they made even more mistakes on the new box! The top box in the picture is real, and included for comparison. First off, of course, is the incorrect red printing. Next is the odd batch number, which starts with the number 1, but is supposedly made in the year 2002. They also forgot, again, that there should be a letter behind the batch number. The fake box also contains a small black logo on the inside side flap (left). The real box on top shows the correct (bigger) logo.

With all these examples, you should have the tools to work your way through all the fake Turkish Primobolan out there. That is, of course, until the counterfeiters read Body of Science. Then, we'll just have to start all over again. But I guess that is the whole sport of what we do here at Body of Science. Until next time! – RT

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5A



5B



5C



6B



7



11



6A



bers are wrong. If these ampules were made in the year 1999, their production year (İmal Tarihi) should be 02.99. But if you look closely, this ampule was produced in 2002. The counterfeiters have adapted the dates so that they could continue producing counterfeit (green) amps that were not expiring, but never bothered to change the batch number. The number of almost perfectly counterfeited steroids continues to rise, and it brings us great worry. If we don't stay on top of this trend, enormous amounts of counterfeited product will continue to flood the market.

We've seen that the batch numbers have an extra letter since the paper labels started being used. If you look at the boxes (image 5a) you'll see that these counterfeiters mistook the "B" for an "8". Thus the batch number is written 040788 instead of 04078B. The amps were perfect copies, but the labels were too small, and possessed rounded corners. Soon everyone knew that these were bad counterfeits. On one of the popular Internet forums I wrote about this fake, and said that if the scammer had corrected the shape of the labels, it would be almost perfect. They did! As you can see in

image 5b, the rounded corners (right) were soon replaced by the straight cornered ones (left). The label was made slightly longer as well, so that it covered the black symbols as it is supposed too. Like they say, a picture can be worth a thousand words. Image 5c shows a comparison of the real to fake ampules. You will see that the real one on the left has brighter colours, is smaller, and has different coloured oil. But aside from this, it is frightening how close this counterfeiter is coming to the real amp. It is also scary to think how many people have injected these fake products without knowing what it contains.

Like I touched on before, a lot of customers prefer to buy their expensive Primobolan only when it comes in a box with a tray and leaflet. This is a very good idea, as the more extensive packaging ensures more chances to notice the potential mistakes of the counterfeiters. Such mistakes can be seen on the above boxes. The first thing we can look for are the smaller items that do not scan in on a regular computer very well, like the Schering logo. In this case you can see that the real logo on the left (image 6b) has a cut in the ribbon in the

centre, while the fake is a filled in block. The text on the fake in general is much less crisp, and less detailed. Looking more generally at the box (image 6a), we see that the colours, the fonts and the spacing are all off on the two counterfeits to the right. You'll also see that on the real box the text is split into three distinct paragraphs. The text on each of the fake boxes is found in two chubby blocks. The box on the right also claims to contain 3 amps, while the real Turkish Primo always contains a tray with one amp only.

When we open these boxes in image 7 we find some other remarkable mistakes overlooked by a counterfeiter. First, look at the characteristic form of the flap of the real Turkish box on the right. It sits at a very unusual angle. The fake box on the left has a simple straight flap, just like the Spanish Primobolan boxes. Then there is a major mistake on the price. In Turkey, the standard currency is the Lira. These prices are calculated in millions. The last three figures in any price tag are almost always zero, because this is too small of a fraction to make a difference (it would be like having prices specific to fractions of a cent in