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# Doctor warns of risky practice

The Straits Times, 13 June 1952, Page 10

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# Doctor warns of risky practice

**USE** of plant root to induce abortion, a frequent practice of professional Malay abortionists, was very dangerous, Dr. K. Shanmugaretnam, the Singapore Government Pathologist, told the Singapore Coroner at an inquest yesterday.

He was giving evidence on the death from tetanus last month of a 34-year-old woman, Chan Wai Leng.

The Coroner returned a finding of "criminal abortion against an unknown person" who, he said, had been responsible for Chan's death.

## Piece of root

Dr. Shanmugaretnam, who performed an autopsy on Chan, said that he found in her body a piece of root from a plant called "cheraka merah".

It was identical to those found in other cases of abortion in Singapore.

"This method of abortion, often practised by professional Malay abortionists, carries a very great risk of tetanus," he added.

Lee See, Chan's mother, said that her daughter's husband had left for America seven years ago and she had been living with another man.

On May 8, Chan visited her and complained of a pain in the head.

Three days later, her daughter

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17 June 1952 - Told her mother: 'I'm dying TAN AH LAY said in the Singapore Relief Court yesterday that shortly before her daughter died in the General Hospital, she told her: "Look after my children, I am going to die." She was giving evidence at the trial of Hitam blnte AH. aged 69,...

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3 November 1962 - WITNESS: 'SHE WENT TO CHANGI DOCTOR FOR INJECTIONS' SINGAPORE, Friday. J^ BAR waitress who died in an attempt td end her pregnancy carried to her grave a secret the identity of a mysterious abortionist, who, according to hints dropped by her,...

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6 April 1971 - ABORTION DEATH: HUSBAND DIDN'T KNOW OF PREGNANCY CINGAPORE, Mon. 13 The husband of a woman who died at Kandang Kerbau Hospital on March 18 after an illegal abortion today told the coroner's court that he did not even know she was pregnant. AS. Shahul Hammid, 34, a night watchman, said...

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... for her. Chan was in bed and could not speak although she was conscious. She died in the General Hospital on May 14.



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7 November 1963 - SINGAPORE. Wed. A mother of five died in an unsuccessful attempt at abortion, a Coroner's inquiry was told today. She was Urn Hwee Hoon, 33. wife of a fishmonger, Er Wan Slang. She died one day after being admitted to the General Hospital on June...

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