Cosmetics (colloquially known as makeup or make-up) can be defined as "products to be applied to the human body for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance without affecting the body's structure or functions." This broad definition also includes any material intended for use as a component of a cosmetic product. Last few decades have shown a big boost in cosmetic in industries, by the production of the various types of the cosmetics which are needed for the care and beatification of the skin, hair, nails, teeth, body comprises of creams, beauty soaps, talcum and face powders, lotions, shampoos, hair oils, hair dyes, hair colors, perfumery items, lipsticks, sin-door, shaving creams, henna, rouge, body lotions, tooth paste etc.

Heavy metal contamination is one of the important reasons behind the same problem. Heavy metals like Pb, Cd, Ni, and Hg are common contaminants in various cosmetic products. Heavy metals can build up in the body over time and are known to cause varied health problems, which can include: cancer, reproductive and developmental disorders, neurological problems; memory loss; mood swings; nerve, joint and muscle disorders; cardiovascular, skeletal, blood, immune system, kidney and renal problems; headaches; vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea; lung damage; contact dermatitis; and brittle hair and hair loss. Many are suspected hormone disruptors and respiratory toxins, and for some like lead, there is no known safe blood level.

Heavy metals are found in pigments and other raw materials in all industries including the cosmetics industry. Some of these metals have been used as cosmetic ingredient. The four metals of most concern for this testing were arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury. This is because they are banned as intentional ingredients in cosmetics, have draft limits as potential impurities in cosmetics, and are designated “toxic” in according to international health concerns. Heavy metals were determined in different cosmetics products (soap, face cream, shampoo, shaving cream, etc.) from local market of Erbil city with atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

KEYWORDS: Lead, cadmium, cosmetic products. Atomic Absorption

REFERENCES: