



Water Fluoridation

Coming to a Viable Solution

Fluoride and Dental Hygiene

- Two Theories
 - ◆ Kills cavity-causing bacteria
 - ★ When abundance is >20 ppm
 - ◆ Enamel may remineralize



Problems of Fluoride

- More toxic than lead
- Can accumulate in body, causing health problems



Widespread Fluoridation

- Began 50 years ago
 - ◆ Elemental Fluoride - 1 ppm
- Most beneficial for young and poor
- Only 20% of fluoridation reaches desired groups
 - ◆ The rest goes to irrigation, industry, and household use.



Widespread Fluoridation

- Two schools of thought
 - ◆ Those in favor (Yeas)
 - ◆ Those opposed (Nays)
- More controversy
 - ◆ Research from both sides conflict

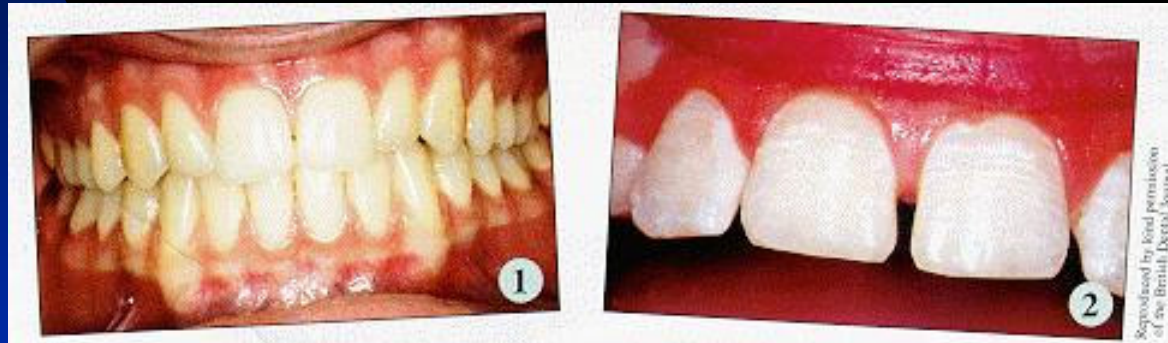
What The 'Yeas' Believe



Children living in non-fluoridated areas are much more likely to suffer serious tooth decay.

- Fluoridated water is beneficial for teeth
- Opposing claims are insubstantial
- Fluorosis can be caused by too much fluoride
 - ◆ Not a health threat
 - ◆ Purely cosmetic

Fluorosis



Picture 1: Healthy teeth

Picture 2: Mild Fluorosis

What The 'Nays' Believe

- Fluoridation has not been shown to decrease tooth decay
- Fluoride causes ailments such as
 - ◆ Cancer
 - ◆ Arthritis
 - ◆ Kidney damage
 - ◆ Bone Fragility
 - ◆ Lessened IQ
 - ◆ Alzheimer's
 - ◆ Violent tendencies
 - ◆ Infertility
 - ◆ Even death

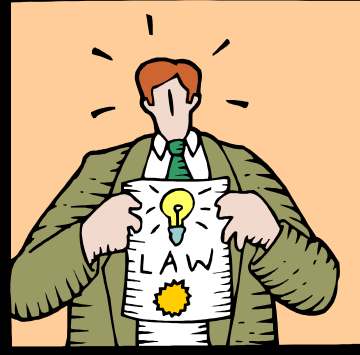
Dental Fluorosis

Taber's Cyclopedia Medical Dictionary:
Dental fluorosis is a condition resulting from chronic fluoride intoxication or a pathological effect.



Dental fluorosis is more than just cosmetic defects – it represents an objective, clinical sign of fluoride toxicity.

Nays (continued)



- Fluorosis is an early sign of fluoride poisoning
 - ◆ If ignored, can cause sickness or death
- Violation of Constitutional Rights
 - ◆ Forces those who do not desire water fluoridation to use it.





Solutions

- Stop Widespread Fluoridation!
- Educate the public, let them decide
- Household Fluoridation
 - ◆ Pills
 - ◆ Filters
- Sealants also protect against cavities
- Provide poor with means

End Widespread Fluoridation



- Not fair to force upon everyone
 - ◆ Nays paying taxes for something they don't want
- Start fluoridation on individual and household basis

Public Education



- Pamphlets compiled by both sides
 - ◆ Not biased
- Made available to public
- Individuals can form their own opinions and make decision
 - ◆ To fluoridate or not to fluoridate...

If Fluoridation is desired:



- Fluoride Pills for children
 - ◆ Downside – Funny taste
 - ★ kids may not take them
- Buy Fluoridating Filter
 - ◆ Adds fluoride to water
 - ◆ tasteless, odorless

Sealants



- Can protect teeth from decay
- Insurance may even pay for them
 - ◆ Good investment
 - ★ Cost less than future cavities
- Pictures
 - ◆ Above – before sealant
 - ◆ Below – after sealant

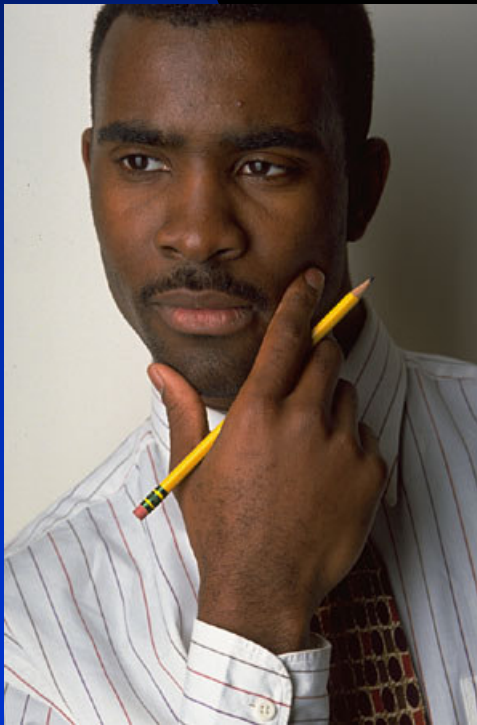
Those without means

- Money from halted widespread fluoridation could be used to purchase dental tools
 - ◆ Distributed to those in need



Conclusion

- Let the individual make an educated decision



FIN

Thanks, you've been a great audience.

