Fluoride scheme gets green light

Judicial Review of fluoride decision in Hampshire says process was not illegal

The High Court has ruled that the British Dental Authority was not acting unlawfully in seeking to add fluoride to Southamptons tap water.

The proposal by South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) to increase the level of fluoride in water to one part per million, was given the go-ahead in February 2009 after a recent judicial review. The court ruled that residents would have "no choice" but to drink fluoridated water. Campaign groups, which backed the mother-of-three’s case, said potential side effects range from bone cancer to thyroid problems and brown spots on the teeth.

However, the British Dental Foundation welcomed the High Court’s decision and urged more SHA’s to follow suit. Chief Executive of the BDHF, Dr Nigel Carter, said: “The verdict will be of great benefit to an area that tooth decay amongst under-fives has been a problem. Though there has been opposition, robust scientific research supports the fact that fluoride significantly improves oral health and there is no evidence to suggest that it can have any negative impact on overall health. Address the poor dental health of the population. “A recent European summary of the latest scientific evidence reiterated the view that water fluoridation is a safe and effective method of reducing oral health inequalities.”

Fancy some Comet? 45-year-old Detroit mum Crystal Newman has a peculiar habit: she eats Comet, a bathroom kitchen cleaner. Recently, she would add the powder, mix it with water to form a paste and then eat it. Comet’s warning label cautions: “May be harmful if swallowed or inhaled.” “It tastes the way it smells. Leaves a metallically taste in your tongue,” says Trent when he tastes the Comet. When asked if the cleaning product had done her any harm, Newman replied: “No issues, except for my teeth.” Cosmetic dentist Demi Kasanis, gave Newman a new smile by replacing twenty of her teeth with titanium implants. The implants reportedly cost her $75,000. "Her mouth was rampant with decay and infection. This is what eating Comet for thirty years can do,” says Kasanis.

Listen with your teeth Sonitus Medical, Inc., a medical device company that manufactures the world’s first non-surgical removable hearing prosthetic to transmit sound via the teeth, today announced that it has received FDA clearance to market its Sonitus Hearing System. The FDA 510(k) clearance is the first for the company and the product. The SoundBite Hearing System was found to be safe and effective in two pivotal clinical trials, which supported the FDA clearance. One study evaluated the safety and efficacy of the SoundBite system over a period of one month in 28 patients. A second study evaluated the long-term safety of the device over a six month period in 22 patients. Key safety and efficacy measures evaluated in the studies included the SoundBite system’s benefit and impact on auditory performance, improvement in speech intelligibility, oral health, and overall comfort.

Young and CROOKED Teens films on dental hygiene hit the headlines

The point of perfection Michael Sultan discusses root canal treatment

The Inman Aligner II Tif Qureshi discusses bleaching and bonding

B2A celebrates success Hope Dental Centre in sixth year

Fluoridation of Southamptons water was not an illegal process

The proposal by South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) to increase the level of fluoride in water to one part per million, was given the go-ahead in February 2009 after a recent judicial review. The court ruled that residents would have "no choice" but to drink fluoridated water. Campaign groups, which backed the mother-of-three’s case, said potential side effects range from bone cancer to thyroid problems and brown spots on the teeth.

However, the British Dental Association (BDA) also welcomed the decision. BDA Scientific Adviser Professor Damien Wilmot said: “The BDA is pleased with the result because it is likely to encourage consultation on similar schemes in other parts of the country where fluoride could help address the poor dental health of the population. “A recent European summary of the latest scientific evidence reiterated the view that water fluoridation is a safe and effective method of reducing oral health inequalities.”

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