

Water fluoridation: Safety efficacy and value in oral health care

21 March 2014

Today during the 43rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition of the American Association for Dental Research, held in conjunction with the 38th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research, a symposium titled "Water Fluoridation: Safety Efficacy and Value in Oral Health Care" will take place. This symposium will be chaired by Stephen H. Abrams, Cliffcrest Dental Office, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Community [water fluoridation](#) (CWF) and other fluoride modalities historically have been and remains the cornerstone for the prevention and control of dental caries. There is extensive evidence on the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of these interventions as well as assessments of the risks associated with fluoride ingestion. In 2006, the National Research Council identified severe fluorosis as the only documented health effect of [fluoride](#) at 2 – 4 mg/L in drinking water. Concentrations recommended for CWF and current dosage schedules for other modalities ensure safety. Systematic reviews on fluorides have identified gaps in knowledge or the need to replicate some of the previous studies under current widespread use of fluorides.

The learning objectives of this symposium are: the linkage between caries rates and water fluoridation; review of the research on the safety and value of water fluoridation; and understanding how community water is fluoridated.

The learning objectives will be addressed in the following four presentations:

- Effectiveness of Fluorides: Findings of Evidence-Based Reviews, E. Angeles Martinez-Mier, Indiana University School of Dentistry, Indianapolis, USA.
- The Health Assessment of Fluoride in Drinking Water: Conclusions from the National Research Council and Subsequent Scientific Assessments By

EPA, Jayanth Kumar, New York State Department of Health, New York City, USA.

- Community Water Fluoridation: Translating Evidence into Public Health Practice, Barbara F. Gooch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- Gaps in Scientific Knowledge Regarding Water Fluoridation and Other Fluoride Modalities, Gary Slade, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, USA.

More information: This is a summary of symposium #111, "Water Fluoridation: Safety Efficacy and Value in Oral Health Care," which will be presented on Friday, March 21, 2014, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at the Charlotte Convention Center, room 217AB.

Provided by International & American Associations for Dental Research

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