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And the debate continues

Re: There's no comparison — Dec. 15Fluoridation works — Dec. 18

Carole Clinch, research coordinator for People for Safe Drinking Water in Waterloo, questions claims from pro-fluoridation folk that "fluoridation of drinking water is the 'cause' of any differences in cavity rates between individuals or groups."

Robert Hudgins uses "decades of experience with fluoridation" to question Clinch's position.

A 2007 study published in the British Medical Journal reviewed many aspects of the too-politicized fluoride debate — including children's cavity rates in several European countries. The authors found that, "In most countries . . . 50 per cent of children have no caries. Although the prevalence of caries varies between countries, levels everywhere have fallen greatly in the past three decades, and national rates of caries are now universally low. This trend has occurred regardless of the concentration of fluoride in water or the use of fluoridated salt, and it probably reflects use of fluoridated toothpastes and other factors, including perhaps aspects of nutrition."

Eric Boyd

Waterloo

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