

## Is flouridation beneficial to society?

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The ultimate test of whether or not a substance is beneficial to society is to find out who stands to profit from its use. In the case of water fluoridation, a bigger picture must be drawn in order to accomplish this.

Fluorine is one of the most chemically reactive elements known to man.

As such, it is one of the most useful elements in big industry. Some of the industries which make use of fluorine and fluoride containing compounds include aluminum, steel and zinc mining and smelting, phosphate fertilizer, ceramics and glass, Teflon, pharmaceutical and weapons grade uranium industries. An impressive resume already.

Fluoride ion in the body acts in a variety of ways.

It is an enzyme disrupter, carcinogenic, neurotoxic, goitrogenic (goiter producing), and mineralizes bone at an accelerated rate.

It is also recommended for use by the dental association as a "topical" treatment for dental carries (cavities).

In 2003, the Canadian Pediatric Society issued guidelines stating forcefully that the maximum amount of fluoride that a child should consume in drinking water was 0.3 ppm (0.3mg/L).

Currently fluoridation occurs at a dosage of 0.7 ppm with a medically unknown substance that is hydrofluorosilicic acid, as opposed to sodium fluoride or naturally occurring calcium fluoride, which are at least both studied.

As a former chemical engineer turned doctor of Chinese medicine, I am keenly aware of the ethical dilemma we face when an issue as prolific and hotly debated as the fluoridation of public water supplies becomes a subject for debate.

However, big companies should pay to pollute, instead of getting paid to dump a waste product that gets scrubbed from the smoke stacks of the fertilizer and aluminum industries into our water supplies.

It is now time to put fluoridation to bed along with the other past dinosaurs of chemical evangelism, namely, leaded gasoline, DDT, asbestos, thalidomide and UFFI.

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