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## Potential for harm

Re: **Fluoridation critics should not ignore science — March 13**

Lewis Brubacher's response to the public meeting about the wording of the fluoridation question and the addition of hydrofluorosilicic acid (HFSA) while seeking to resolve one question raises many more which get at the real heart of the issue.

To say that no hydrofluorosilicic acid comes out of Waterloo taps does not answer the question of what does come out of the taps and what it does while it circulates through the human body.

If, as he asserts, "hydrofluorosilicic acid when added to water decomposes completely within minutes to fluoride ion and an innocuous silicon compound found in bone," he has not accounted for what the fluoride ion does in our bodies.

Flourine is an aggressive element that bonds to calcium; this being the basis of the assertion that fluoride strengthens tooth enamel by making it harder and resistant to decay. But since we swallow fluoridated water, this ion is free to find other sources of calcium in the body and change them. Two significant sites are bone, especially developing bone, and breast tissue. When does harder become brittle? When does harder become fibrous?

Flourine also is a halogen and will displace any other halogens. Iodine is essential to the proper function of the thyroid. Iodine is susceptible to displacement. The standard treatment for an overactive thyroid has been fluoride tablets. A normally functioning thyroid exposed to fluoride stands the risk of becoming underactive.

Brubacher needs to explain further what fluoride does inside the body. The potential for harm is great. Why are we being exposed to these risks?

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