

Fluoride Linked to Bone Cancer, Again

Newly available research out of Harvard University, links fluoride in tap water, at levels most Americans drink, to osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer.¹

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), a highly-regarded Washington DC-based organization, urges that fluoride in tap water be declared a known or probable cancer cause,² based on this and previous animal and human studies.

Elise Bassin, PhD writes, in her April 2001 Harvard doctoral thesis, "...for males less than twenty years old, fluoride level in drinking water [about 1 part per million] during growth is associated with an increased risk of osteosarcoma." According to EWG, "Research dating back decades, much of it government funded, has long suggested that fluoride added to drinking water presents a unique cancer risk to the growing bones of young boys."³

Citing a strong body of peer-reviewed evidence, including the Bassin study, EWG urges an expedited review of fluoride for inclusion in a US government report of substances known or feared to be cancer-causing in humans.²

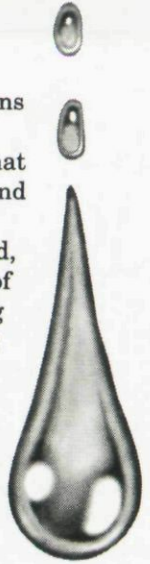
Richard Wiles, EWG's Sr. Vice President, told the British newspaper *The Observer*, "I've spent 20 years in public health trying to protect kids from toxic exposure. Even with DDT, you don't have the consistently strong data that the compound can cause cancer as you now have with fluoride."⁴

High-quality epidemiological studies show a strong association between fluoride in tap water and osteosarcoma in boys, reports EWG. EWG's Wiles writes, "The safety of fluoride in America's tap water is a pressing health concern. ...the weight of the evidence strongly supports the conclusion that millions of boys in these [fluoridated] communities are at significantly increased risk of developing bone cancer as a result."

"The Harvard dissertation...obviously had merit because Bassin was awarded her doctorate," writes *The Observer*.

Fluoride is added to water supplies in a questionable attempt to reduce tooth decay. Pro-fluoridation studies are outdated and flawed as revealed in British⁵ and US reviews of the literature.⁶

More about fluoride and bone cancer here: <http://www.fluoridealert.org/health/cancer/osteosarcoma.html>
<http://www.ewg.org/issues/siteindex/issues.php?issueid=5030>



References

1. "Association Between Fluoride in Drinking Water During Growth and Development and the Incidence of Osteosarcoma for Children and Adolescents," A Thesis Presented by Elise Beth Bassin, April 2001 <http://www.fluoridealert.org/health/cancer/bassin-2001.pdf>
2. June 6, 2005 letter from Richard Wiles, Sr. Vice President, Environmental Working Group to Dr. C. W. Jameson, National Toxicology Program, Report on Carcinogens <http://www.ewg.org/issues/fluoride/20050606/petition.php>
3. Environmental Working Group News Release "Government Asked to Evaluate the Cancer Causing Potential of Fluoride in Tap Water," June 6, 2005 <http://www.ewg.org/issues/fluoride/20050606/index.php>
4. "Fluoride water 'causes cancer'," by Bob Woffinden, June 12, 2005, *The Observer* http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1504672,00.html
5. The University of York, Centre for Review and Dissemination "What the 'York Review' on the fluoridation of drinking water really found," Originally released: 28 October 2003 <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/fluoridnew.htm>
6. National Institutes of Health, News Release concerning Consensus statement regarding Diagnosis and Management of Dental Caries Throughout Life, March 26-28, 2001, Vol. 18, No. 1 http://consensus.nih.gov/news/releases/115_release.htm ("...the (NIH) panel was disappointed in the overall quality of the clinical data that it reviewed. According to the panel, far too many studies were small, poorly described, or otherwise methodologically flawed" (over 560 studies evaluated fluoride use).)

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