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ABSTRACT OF THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE



ANTICARIES EFFECTIVENESS OF FLUORIDE-CONTAINING DENTRIFICES

The aim of this article was to compare the anticaries effectiveness of a low dose (500 ppm F) sodium fluoride, high dose (2,800 ppm F) sodium fluoride, and an experimental 0.454% stannous fluoride (1,100 ppm F) with sodium hexametaphosphate (SnF₂-HMP) dentifrice, relative to a standard 1,100 ppm F as a control dentifrice. This randomized, double-blind study was conducted for 24 months. Approximately 239 subjects per group, with a mean age of 10.6 (9 to 12 years old) were randomly assigned to 1 of 4 dentifrice treatments. Two examiners measured visual-tactile caries as DMFS supplemented with radiographs at baseline, 12, and 24 months. They found that the high-fluoride group and the stannous fluoride groups had statistically significantly less caries than the control group. The low-fluoride group was not statistically more significant than the control group. This study demonstrates that the 17% to 25% caries reduction observed by the stannous fluoride dentifrice relative to the control represents a clinically significant benefit.

Comments: This study shows no differences in caries reduction between 500 ppm and 1,100 ppm fluoride dentifrices. We can prescribe the use of 500-ppm fluoride dentifrices in young children without compromising the desired anticaries effect. Also, in populations with high caries risk, stannous fluoride dentifrice again shows its superiority over sodium fluoride, possibly due to the combination of effects of fluoride and tin. JLC

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Stookey GK, Mau MS, Isaacs RL, Gonzales-Gierbolini C, Bartizek RD, Biesbrock AR. The relative anticaries effectiveness of three fluoride-containing dentifrices in Puerto Rico. *Caries Res* 2004;38:542-550.

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