



Member/Medical
Professional Resource Center



Physician Reference Materials: Position Statement 1

A Statement On The Question of Allergy to Fluoride as Used in the Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies

A request to the American Academy of Allergy has been made by the United States Public Health Service for an evaluation of the question of allergy to fluoride as used in the fluoridation of community water supplies. It was further requested that such an evaluation include a review of clinical reports of allergy to fluoride and express an opinion whether or not such reports constitute valid evidence of a hypersensitivity reaction.

The response to this request has been handled as follows:

Reports of allergic reactions have been reviewed. First, these reports were evaluated in an attempt to determine whether or not there is sufficient clinical or scientific information to classify any case of presumed fluoride allergy in one of the four major classes of hypersensitivity reaction (types I to IV).¹ These immunologically mediated reactions are the anaphylactic or reaginic, the cytotoxic, the toxic complex, and the delayed-type reactivity.¹ Second, the reports were evaluated to determine whether or not there was sufficient clinical evidence to support the possibility that intolerance or allergy to fluorides might occur as one of the less-well understood types of drug reactions that may or may not be immunologically mediated.²

The reports of fluoride allergy reviewed³⁻⁷ listed a wide variety of symptoms including vomiting, abdominal pain, headaches, scotomata, personality changes, muscular weakness, painful numbness in extremities, joint pain, migraine headaches, dryness in the mouth, oral ulcers, convulsions, mental deterioration, colitis, pelvic hemorrhages, urticaria, nasal congestions, skin rashes, epigastric distress, and hematemesis.

The review of the reported allergic reactions showed no evidence that immunologically mediated reactions of the types I to IV had been presented. Secondly, the review of the cases reported demonstrated that there was insufficient clinical and laboratory evidence to state that true syndromes of fluoride allergy or intolerance exist.

As a result of this review, the members of the Executive

Committee of the American Academy of Allergy have adopted unanimously the following statement:

"There is no evidence of allergy or intolerance to fluorides as used in the fluoridation of community water supplies."

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February 18, 1971

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