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Case study prompts questions on the denture creams

The ADA has received calls from members concerned about what to tell patients regarding the safety of denture creams.

The calls came on the heels of a recent "Good Morning America" story and television commercials seeking plaintiffs for a potential lawsuit against manufacturers of the products Fixodent and Poli-Grip denture creams. If a lawsuit is filed, the plaintiffs will likely claim that the zinc these particular creams contain as an ingredient caused them to experience hypocupremia (copper insufficiency) induced neuropathy.

The issue has apparently arisen because of a case study titled "Denture Cream: An Unusual Source of Excess Zinc, leading to Hypocupremia and Neurological Disease," which was published in the June 4, 2008 issue of *Neurology*, the official journal of the

American Academy of Neurology. The study reviewed that the case histories of four denture-wearers who exhibited neurological problems. These individuals reported that for years that they had to use two or more tubes of denture cream adhesive per week, although the manufacturers' directions indicate that a single tube should last up to 10 weeks.

The authors posit that the four denture-wearers consumed significant amounts of zinc from the excess denture cream they presumably swallowed over a prolonged period. The authors then hypothesize that the four individuals' symptoms are attributable to their consumption of zinc from that source and conclude that the creams, when used in excess, "may result in hypocupremia and serious neurological disease."

The ADA has issued a statement that the Association is "not aware of any reports of neurological problems resulting from the use of denture cream following the manufac-

To date, the FDA has not issued any advisory to the public or the profession on the issue.

The ADA Division of Science will be looking out for any

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turer's instructions, nor indeed of any other reports of neurological or health problems related to the use of denture cream products under any conditions."

additional information that might come out on this topic and recommends that dental professionals remind patients to follow the directions on the

continued on reverse

Dental Fun Fact

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

In Arabia and India, dental cleaning sticks had a religious significance. Prayers are made while brushing, 15 minutes of tooth brushing is said to equal 70 prayers.

~The World of Dentistry ~Floss.com

News You Can Use

Did you know that the H1N1 virus is a subtype of influenza A virus comprised of the surface proteins hemagglutinin 1 and neuraminidase 1? The H1N1 subtype was responsible for the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 and for Swine Flu.

Is this new H1N1 virus contagious?

CDC has determined that this new H1N1 virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human. However, at this time, it is not known how easily the virus spreads between people.

How severe is illness associated with this novel H1N1 flu virus?

One thing that appears to be different from seasonal influenza is that adults older than 64 years do not yet appear to be at increased risk of novel H1N1-related complications thus far in the outbreak. CDC is conducting laboratory studies to see if certain people might have natural immunity to this virus, depending on their age. It is unknown how much, if any, protection may be afforded against the novel H1N1 flu by any existing antibody.
~Center for Disease and Control Prevention

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label when using these products.

For more information on denture adherents and other consumer products with the ADA Seal of Acceptance visit www.ada.org/ada/seal/category.asp

In separate but unrelated denture news, the Food and Drug Administration posted a Public Health Notification in March 2008 for health professionals on its web site regarding possible allergic reactions from denture cleansers. The PHN says that the reactions – which include irritation, tissue pain, gum tenderness and res-

piratory conditions—can occur soon after the patient begins using the product or after years of use.

All FDA safety alerts relevant to dentistry are posted on ADA.org. To access the one on denture cleansers, visit www.ada.org/public/topics/

safety.asp. For more information contact the ADA Division of Science at the toll-free number, ext. 2878, or email science@ada.org.

The ADA News— May 18, 2009, page 23.

Dr. Brian Simpson

would like to announce the formation of a

Study Club for Dental Implants

Join our study club focused on dental implants and earn continuing education credits. Quarterly meetings would offer engaging lectures on important implant topics. Take advantage of unique opportunities to discuss individual cases from club participants in a post-lecture discussion. Increase your knowledge base about implants and break down the barriers that are preventing patients from case acceptance.

**Contact Kristen at our office- 845-623-3497
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“Nothing would be done at all if we waited until we could do it so well that no one could find fault with it.”

-John Henry