Fluoride scheme gets green light

Judicial Review of fluoridation decision in Hampshire says process was not illegal

The High Court has ruled that the authority was not acting unlawfully in seeking to add fluoride to Southampton’s tap water.

The proposal by South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) to increase the level of fluoride in water to one part per million, was given the go-ahead in February 2009 after a judicial review of the decision, that the SCSHA tried to illegally force the fluoridation of Southampton’s water.

At a judicial review, Mrs Justice Holman dismissed the legal challenge against the process. The judge expressed sympathy for people who disagreed with fluoridation but said there was no illegality in the decision-making process.

“It is not the law that fluoridation can only occur when a majority of the local population agree. Parliament has firmly entrusted area-specific decision making to the relevant SHA. This SHA have not acted unlawfully and no court can interfere with their decision,” said Kaszans.

During the hearing, Ms Milner’s counsel David Wolfe had argued that residents would have “no choice” but to drink fluoridated water. Campaign groups, which backed the fluoridated water. Campaign groups, which backed the mother-of-three’s case, said potential side effects range from cancer to thyroid problems and brown spots on the teeth.

However, the British Dental Association (BDA) also welcomed the decision. BDA Scientific Adviser Professor Damien Walmsley said: “The BDA is pleased with the result because it is likely to encourage consultation on similar schemes in other parts of the country where fluoride could help address the poor dental health of the population.

“The recent European summary of the latest scientific evidence reiterated the view that water fluoridation is a safe and effective method of reducing oral health inequalities.”

Fancy some Comet?

45-year-old Detroit mum Crystal Newman has a peculiar habit: she eats Comet, a bathroom kitchen cleaner. Reportedly, she would re- out the powder, mix it with water to form a paste and then eat it. Comet’s warning label cautions: “May be harmful if swallowed or inhaled.” “It tastes the way it smells,” says Newman when he tastes the Comet. When asked if the cleaning product had done her any harm, Newman replied: “No issues, except for my teeth.” Cosmetic dentist Demi Kasanis, gave Newman a new smile by replacing twenty of her ‘teeth’ with titanium implants. The implants reportedly cost her $75,000. “Her mouth was rampant with decay and infection. This is what eating Comet for thirty years can do,” says Kasanis.

Listen with your teeth

Sonitus Medical, Inc., a medical device company that manufactures the world’s first non-surgical and removable hearing prosthetic to transmit sound via the teeth, today announced that it has received FDA clearance for its SoundBite Hearing System. The FDA 510(k) clearance is the first for the company and the product. The SoundBite Hearing System was found to be safe and effective in two pivotal clinical trials, which supported the FDA clearance. One study evaluated the safety and efficacy of the SoundBite system over a period of one month in 28 patients. A second study evaluated the long-term safety of the device over a six month period in 22 patients. Key safety and efficacy measures evaluated in the studies included the SoundBite system’s benefit and impact on auditory performance, improvement in speech intelligibility, oral health and overall comfort.

B2A celebrates success

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