

Denture Adhesives Containing Zinc (3/11)

Reports about a possible association between excessive use of zinc-containing denture creams and neurological and hematological problems have been featured in the news again. As a result of media reports last year, the American Dental Association (ADA) posted a press release stating that more information was needed to determine if there is a cause and effect relationship. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not issued an advisory or recall of zinc containing denture creams at this time. However, last year the ADA reported that Glaxo Smith Kline, a major manufacturer of denture cream, voluntarily decided, as a precautionary measure, to stop using zinc in the following denture cream brands: Super Poligrip Original, Super Poligrip Ultra Fresh and Super Poligrip Extra Care.



In each reported case, the patients had poor fitting dentures and reported using excessive amounts of zinc-containing denture cream for many years. Several individuals reported using two or more tubes of denture cream per week for years. When used as directed, one tube would normally last for 3-10 weeks. As a result, of excessive use, the authors speculated that the patients probably swallowed excess denture cream and over the years this lead to a build-up of zinc in these individuals. It is well documented that swallowing excessive amounts of zinc can raise blood levels of zinc which can lead to lower blood levels of copper and the lower blood level of copper can then lead to neurological and hematological problems.

If patients have questions about the safety of zinc-containing denture cream, the ADA encourages dentists to use information available on the ADA Web site when discussing this with patients.

- ADA Statement on Zinc in Denture Cream: <http://www.ada.org/3212.aspx>
- ADA Denture Information: <http://www.ada.org/2996.aspx?currentTab=1>