

TOTAL INTAKE OF FLUORIDE AND DENTAL FLUOROSIS AFTER TREATMENT IN COUNTIES WITH THE COAL- BURNING TYPE OF ENDEMIC FLUOROSIS IN GUIZHOU PROVINCE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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SUMMARY: A cross-sectional epidemiological survey was carried out in 23 counties of Guizhou province, People's Republic of China, which were endemic for the coal-burning type of endemic fluorosis, after the implementation was complete of a project to prevent the occurrence of this disease. The survey was undertaken in order to understand the fluoride intake pathway and the effects of the project. The total intake of fluoride as well as its composition was analyzed. The results showed that the average intakes of fluoride by children and adults in the regions were 0.84 and 1.49 mg /person /day, respectively, which were significant, lower than the comparable figures in 2001. The total rate of dental fluorosis of children was 32.31%, which was remarkably lower than the rate in 2001. The severity of the dental fluorosis for the majority of the affected children in the different age groups was either very mild or mild. The results indicated that the residents in the endemic regions had changed their health behaviours so as to significantly reduce their total fluoride intake and to change its composition. Through the implementation of the project, the prevalence of the coal-burning type of endemic fluorosis in Guizhou has been efficiently controlled.

Key words: Coal-burning type of endemic fluorosis; Dental fluorosis; Epidemiology of coal-burning fluorosis; Fluoride intake; Guizhou; Prevention of fluorosis.

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