

FLUORIDE CONTENT AND LABELLING OF TOOTHPASTE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN IN THAILAND

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SUMMARY: The aim of the study was to assess the fluoride (F) content and labelling of toothpaste available for children in Thailand. The samples, 37 types of toothpaste from 10 brands, consisted of all the varieties of children's toothpaste available for sale in hyper-marts and supermarkets in Bangkok and its vicinity in October 2013. The F levels were measured at the Dental Health Bureau's laboratory using a F Ion Selective Electrode. All samples were checked for information, on both the outer carton and on the tube, on whether F was present and its concentration in ppm. For 86% of the samples, the toothpaste was produced in Thailand. F was present in 34 (92%) of the toothpastes and the 3 (8%) toothpastes were F-free. The F-free toothpastes were described as being suitable for very young children. Six samples gave the F content as 500 ppm, 6 gave the F content as 1000 ppm, and the other 22 F-containing toothpastes did not give a figure for the level of F present. The results of the F content analysis showed that 20 toothpastes contained approximately 500 ppm F (488–575 ppm F) and 14 contained approximately 1000 ppm F (1,022–1,070 ppm).

Key words: Children; Fluoride; Toothpaste; Thailand.

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