

## The Safety of Water Fluoridation

Recent articles in TIME Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and other news outlets attempt to show a link between water fluoridation and osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Approximately 250 male children are diagnosed with osteosarcoma each year, which is an extremely small percentage (6 10,000ths of 1%) of the 41,500,000 male children age 19 and under reported by the 2002 US Census.

To put this in perspective one must realize we're talking about one doctoral student's paper, a paper that has not been published in a scientific journal and therefore has not been available for peer review. Peer review is a process where a group of experts review studies prior to publication to determine if the study is designed well and if the conclusions are valid.

The possible relationship between fluoridated water and cancer has been debated at length. Multiple studies by nationally recognized researchers in widely-published, respected and peer-reviewed scientific journals found no indication of increased cancer risk associated with fluoridated drinking water. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports these findings and concludes that studies to date have produced "no credible evidence" of an association between fluoridated drinking water and an increased risk of cancer.

The OMCFH/Oral Health Program and CDC continue to strongly support community water fluoridation as a safe and effective public health measure to prevent and control tooth decay and to improve overall health. Water fluoridation benefits people of all ages and socioeconomic groups, including those difficult to reach through other public health programs and private dental care.