



Swedish Dental Association

The Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP)
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The Swedish Dental Association would like to submit the following comments on the SCCP's report

A PRELIMINARY OPINION ON HYDROGEN PEROXIDE IN TOOTH WHITENING PRODUCTS.

Tooth whitening has in recent years met with great interest and at present is a frequently performed treatment. Most methods involve the introduction of hydrogen peroxide or hydrogen peroxide releasing substances (carbamide peroxide) to the tooth surface. As the treatment is regarded as invasive and is very widespread it is important that a more systematic analysis is made of any side effects. The report presented here is a good survey of available literature.

The Swedish Dental Association (SDA) supports the report presented and its conclusions.

SDA considers, however, that the high figures for side-effects presented in the report should be more clearly pointed out. This mainly concerns gingival irritation and pain phenomena from the teeth (up to 70 % of cases). The responsibility of the dentist and participation in diagnostics should also be more clearly emphasized.

SDA suggests the following amendments of the first and the third sentences under 4. CONCLUSION:

(1) The use of tooth whitening products up to 0.1 % hydrogen peroxide is safe. The proper use of tooth whitening products containing > 0.1 to 6.0 % hydrogen peroxide (or equivalent for hydrogen peroxide releasing substances) is considered safe after consultation with a dentist. *The diagnosis and treatment should be under the responsibility and supervision of a dentist.* The use of tooth whitening products is not recommended prior to or immediately after dental restoration.

(3) There is an absence of good clinical data and epidemiological studies that assess the possible adverse effects within the oral cavity. *However, there are a number of reports indicating mucosal irritation and/or sensitive teeth up to 70 % as a result of bleaching.*

Stockholm, January 27, 2005

THE SWEDISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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