



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333
TELEPHONE: (404) 633-3311

Refer: FL-100
July 1978

Fluoridation: "On balance, it becomes evident the benefits far outweigh any potential risks." Ben F. Feingold, M.D.

Ben F. Feingold, M.D., Chief Emeritus, Department of Allergy, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, San Francisco, California, has been widely quoted as opposed to fluoridation. On June 7, 1978, Dr. Feingold provided the following statement to the Chairman of the Fluoride Committee in Houston, Texas:

"I fear my recent statement on fluoridation has been misinterpreted.

As a general hypothesis I stated, 'Any compound in existence, whether natural or synthetic, has the capacity to induce an adverse reaction in any individual with the appropriate genetic profile (predisposition).'

Recognizing this concept, it becomes necessary to evaluate each compound and each situation on the basis of benefit compared with risk.

In applying this rationale to the situation in Harris County relative to its water supply, I have learned the following:

1. Originally, the water supply of Harris County was derived from ground water, which provided a source of fluorides.
2. The original ground water supply has been terminated.
3. The present water supply, which is free of fluoride, has led to a high incidence of dental caries among the residents of Harris County.
4. The prophylactic role of fluorides against dental caries is documented in scientific literature.
5. There are no documented studies in the scientific literature incriminating fluorides as a toxic agent when used for controlled fluoridation of water supplies.
6. On balance, it becomes evident the benefits far outweigh any potential risks.

Accordingly, I am pleased to support the fluoridation program advocated for Harris County."

Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Bureau of State Services