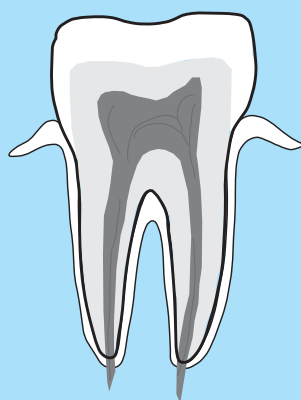


Milk fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries



Milk fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries

Editors

J Bánóczy, PE Petersen, AJ Rugg-Gunn



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Preface

The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD) is rapidly increasing; in response to the growing NCD problem, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in April 2003 released the report *Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases* (WHO/FAO, 2003). This Report contains the best currently available scientific evidence on the relationship of diet, nutrition and physical activity to chronic diseases, including oral disease. Subsequently, in 2004, WHO initiated a Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health with the overall goal of guiding the development of sustainable actions at individual, community, national and global levels, which will lead to reduced disease (WHO, 2005a).

Oral diseases are most prevalent chronic diseases worldwide and are a significant burden to all countries. In reviews of global oral health published by the WHO it is emphasised that despite great improvements in the oral health of populations across the world, problems still persist particularly among the under-privileged groups (WHO, 2003a; Petersen, 2003; Petersen *et al.*, 2005). WHO sees oral health as an integral part of general health, and oral diseases and conditions may have wider impacts on health and wellbeing of people. In addition, oral health and general health share common risk factors, such as poor diet and nutrition, and therefore disease prevention programmes must incorporate oral disease.

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