

IQWiG Reports – Commission No. N17-03

Application of fluoride varnish on milk teeth to prevent caries¹

Extract

¹ Translation of the key statement of the rapid report *Fluoridlackapplikation im Milchgebiss zur Verhinderung von Karies* (Version 1.0; Status: 29 March 2018). Please note: This translation is provided as a service by IQWiG to English-language readers. However, solely the German original text is absolutely authoritative and legally binding.

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Key statement

Research question

The aim of the present investigation is

- the assessment of the benefit of the application of fluoride varnish on milk teeth compared with the usual care without specific fluoridation measures

in each case in children with and without (initial) carious lesions. The focus of the assessment was on patient-relevant outcomes.

Conclusion

For the outcome “caries”, in children with and without (initial) carious lesions of the milk teeth, the data provide an indication of a greater benefit for the application of fluoride varnish versus usual care without specific fluoridation measures. For further patient-relevant outcomes (in particular premature tooth loss, toothache, and [serious] adverse events), no hint of a greater benefit or greater harm could be inferred from the data available.

In addition, no relevant effect modification could be inferred, in particular by the following potential factors: age and sex, oral health, frequency of application and concentration of fluoride varnish, additional prevention measures potentially offered, and social-economical setting.

Keywords: fluorides – topical, dental caries, child – preschool, benefit assessment, systematic review

The full report (German version) is published under

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