

Fluoride & the BANDWAGON PHENOMENON?

"There seems to be a campaign to pardon sucrose, the arch criminal of dental caries. ... "

"There appears to be a similar campaign to overrate the value of topical fluoride applications and to underrate the importance of other factors."

Table 1

Factors influencing the caries picture in Swedes now 20–25 years of age

1940–55	<i>Parents born</i>
1950–60	<i>Vipeholm study - all the sweets you like but only once a week</i> Fluoride tablets recommended by the National Medical Board
1960–70	Fluoride prevention programmes in schools Dietary recommendations from the National Medical Board Fluoride toothpaste came on the market Mutans streptococci and sucrose Increased standard of living, improved general hygiene
1970–75	<i>Study group born</i>
1970–80	Plaque control, improved oral hygiene Interest in health promotion Increased emphasis on prevention of dental diseases No sweets in day nurseries, schools and close to the cash desk in shops Dental health service from 3 to 19 years Fluoride toothpaste from 4 years of age recommended Sugar substitutes Chlorhexidine Fluoride varnish
1980–90	Fissure sealants Chewing gum, lozenges and soft drinks with sugar substitutes on the market
1990–95	Collective fluoride rinses in schools abandoned

Krasse B. The caries decline: is the effect of fluoride toothpaste overrated? Eur J Oral Sci. 1996 Aug;104(4 (Pt 2)):426-9.