



## COLLEGE OF DENTURISTS OF ONTARIO

March 1, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

### **A Public Safety Message from the College of Denturists of Ontario**

In October the College Board after receiving a report from the Quality Assurance Committee, broadcasted a message to its members warning them of a potential danger of excessive use of denture adhesive containing zinc. It is well established that the absorption of zinc by the body can lead to hypocupremia and neurologic symptoms.

I take this opportunity to inform the membership that GlaxoSmithKline (gsk), amid lawsuits, has withdrawn its Zinc containing products from the market. The following products contain Zinc and it is recommended that Denturists recommend to their clients not to use these products: Super Poligrip Original, Poligrip Ultra Fresh and Poligrip Extra Care. Patients should be advised to use denture adhesives that do not contain Zinc.

If a patient has been using zinc-containing Super Poligrip 'Original', 'Ultra Fresh' or 'Extra Care' for several years, or in greater amounts than directed on the package, or more than once per day, or have concerns about their health, they must stop using the product and seek their doctor's advice.

People with ill-fitting dentures should seek help from their dental care professional, rather than compensate for poorly fitting dentures by using excessive adhesive. Denture Cleanser tablets usually contain no zinc and are not affected by this announcement.

For your information the News Release from gsk is enclosed. If you have any questions, or need further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

J. G. Koroneos, B.Sc. DD  
President  
College of Denturists of Ontario

Enclosed: News Release from GlaxoSmithKline.

## Consumer Advisory Canada

### GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) warns about a potential health risk associated with long-term, excessive use of zinc-containing denture adhesives Poli-Grip 'Advanced Care', 'Extra Strength' and 'Ultra Fresh'.

This communication is to alert consumers to a potential health risk from long-term excessive use of zinc-containing denture adhesives Poli-Grip 'Advanced Care', 'Extra Strength' and 'Ultra Fresh'.



Advanced Care



Extra Strength



Ultra Fresh

While zinc is an essential part of the diet, recent publications suggest that an excessive intake of zinc-containing denture adhesives over several years may lead to the development of neurological symptoms. These may include numbness, tingling or weakness in the arms and legs, difficulties with walking and balance and blood problems such as anemia.

Poli-Grip is safe to use as directed in the product label (see below). The majority of consumers follow these directions. However, some consumers apply more adhesive than directed and use it more than once per day. Therefore, as a precautionary measure to minimize any potential risks to these consumers, GSK has voluntarily stopped the manufacture, distribution and advertising of these products.

#### What consumers should do

If you have been using zinc-containing Poli-Grip 'Advanced Care', 'Extra Strength' or 'Ultra Fresh' for several years in greater amounts than directed on the package or more than once per day, or have concerns about your health, you must:

1. Stop using the product.
2. Talk to your doctor.
3. Use a zinc-free alternative such as Poli-Grip 'Original', 'Comfort Strips' or 'Powder'.



Contains no zinc



People with ill-fitting dentures should seek help from their dental care professional, rather than compensate for poorly fitting dentures by using excessive adhesive.

GSK will soon be introducing zinc-free versions of Poli-Grip 'Advanced Care', 'Extra Strength' and 'Ultra Fresh'. *Zinc Free* will be clearly shown on the new packaging.

Consumers with questions may call GSK at **1-888-521-8033**.

For more information on Poli-Grip and zinc, visit [www.gsk.com](http://www.gsk.com).