GlaxoSmithKline taking zinc out of its denture products

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), manufacturer of several versions of denture adhesive sold under the Super Poligrip brand name, recently announced it will introduce zinc-free versions of the products.

“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 and blood problems such as anemia,” a consumer advisory from the company reads.

“Neurological symptoms may include numbness, tingling or weakness in the arms and legs and difficulties with walking and balance.”

The company insists the products are safe when used as directed, but said that it is removing zinc as a precautionary measure for consumers who might use too much.

“Super Poligrip is safe to use as directed in the product label,” the statement reads. “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.”

The new products will be clearly labeled on their packaging as zinc-free. GSK reported that it has discussed this situation with the FDA and that no further action is required.

Chile meeting a go despite earthquake

By Javier de Pison, Editor in Chief Dental Tribune Latin America

The director of Salon Dental Chile, the main dental expo in Chile, told Dental Tribune Latin America over the phone that the capital, Santiago, was only slightly affected by the recent powerful earthquake and that there was a tense calm in the nation, caught by surprise in the middle of the summer vacation.

Salon director Miguel Wechsler said that Chile’s “strict building code” is behind the relatively moderate damage. Over 1,000 buildings in the Santiago metropolitan area had to be evacuated with no injuries reported so far.

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