

## Connett on IQ

### The Harvard Meta-analysis

- In 2012, Choi et al (the team included Philippe Grandjean) published a meta-analysis of 27 studies comparing IQ in “high” versus “low” fluoride villages

Dr. Connett attempts to make the case that IQ is lowered by fluoride levels in community water fluoridation. He cites a meta-analysis that was done by Harvard researcher. Dr. Philippe Grandjean is one of the authors, and specifically studies cognitive impact of environmental factors on IQ.

This was not a study. It was a Meta-analysis, which is an analysis of other studies that have been done on a specific topic. The findings are then reported.

Dr. Connett accurately reported that Drs. Anna Choi and Philippe Grandjean admitted that the studies, mostly from China, were of poor quality. The levels of fluoride in the water were up to 10-15 times higher than fluoride at the optimal level of 0.7ppm, at which water is fluoridated in the United States.

Interestingly, the results of their Meta-analysis actually showed that their control group which were drinking water in the range of water fluoridation in the U.S., actually had no IQ differences. It was those who were drinking water at levels in the high fluoride groups that had IQ deficits of 7 points.

So, even with using poor quality studies, not accounting for confounding factors of burning coal for heating homes which contains fluoride, drinking black brick tea which is very high in fluoride content, and not controlling for other contaminants in the water, their analysis found NO IQ differences in the low fluoride control group.

Their data was being used by the fluoridation opponents here in the U.S. so egregiously in an upcoming referendum in Wichita, KS, that the authors distanced themselves from these opponents by stating that their Meta-analysis should not be used as an argument to not fluoridate the water:

“Harvard University scientists say that Wichita voters shouldn’t depend on a research study they compiled to decide whether to put fluoride in the city’s drinking water to fight tooth decay. While the studies the Harvard team reviewed did indicate that very high levels of fluoride could be linked to lower IQs among schoolchildren, the data is not particularly applicable here because it came from foreign sources where fluoride levels are multiple times higher than they are in America tap water.”

email to Wichita Eagle co-signed by Anna Choi, Philippe Grandjean

Lastly, the Deans of the Harvard School of Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health, and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine have all signed a letter stating that they continue to support community water