

Q: 72 – Title: Is topical fluoride therapy permissible since it has ethanol in it?

Question

My child's dentist has recommended an application of Topical Fluoride. This is a preventative treatment to help reduce the risk of tooth decay. The Topical Fluoride application contains a trace of alcohol (Ethanol). The fluoride is painted on to the teeth and is easily removed using toothbrush.

Is the above mentioned dental treatment permissible?

Answer

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

As-salamu ‘alaykum wa-rahmatullahi wa-barakatuh.

According to Hanafi Madhab, the prohibition of *Khamr* is restricted to the alcohol derived from grapes [and dates].

[1] The alcohol (ethanol) used in these medication is derived from non khamr sources. Consumption of non-khamr alcohol is permissible when used for the purpose of medication as long as it does not intoxicate. [2]

Hence the use of Topical Fluoride Therapy will be permissible.

And Allah Ta’ala Knows Best

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