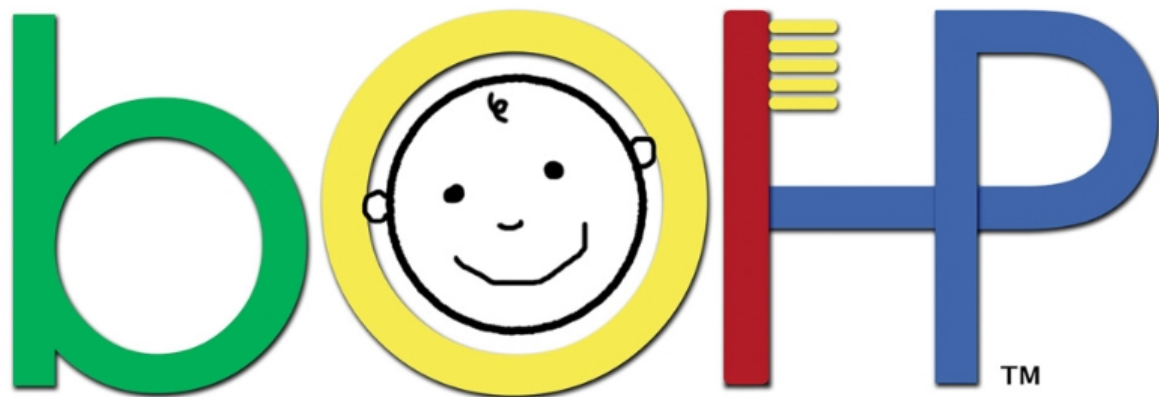


bOHP Newsletter May 2015 (9)

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BABY ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Dear bOHP Subscribers,

We hope the beginning of your summer is going well! Below is a recent news article published by the *Science World Report* indicating newfound concerns regarding teething toys. Please share with friends and colleagues.

Best Wishes,
The bOHP Team

Some Baby Teethers Hold Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

New findings published in the *Journal of Applied Toxicology* reveal that two of ten teethingers, otherwise known as plastic toys that are used to sooth a teething infant, held endocrine disrupting chemicals that can ease aches and pains in a baby's mouth. However, they can contain added health risks.

Researchers found that one contained parabens, which are normally used as preservatives in cosmetics, while the other contained six so-far unidentified endocrine disruptor's.

The detected substances, including methyl, ethyl and propyl parabens, can act as natural oestrogen in the body, in addition to the effects of androgens like testosterone.

"The good news is that most of the teethingers we analyzed did not contain any endocrine disrupting chemicals. However, the presence of parabens in one of the products is striking because these additives are normally not used in plastic toys," said Dr. Martin Wagner, of the Department Aquatic Ecotoxicology at the Goethe University, [in a news release](#).

Furthermore, the EU Commission recently banned two parabens in certain baby cosmetics due to health concerns.

"Our study shows that plastic toys are a source of undesirable chemicals. Manufacturers, regulatory agencies and scientists should investigate the chemical exposure from plastic toys more thoroughly," Wagner concluded, noting the limited benefit at the quality of these products with the higher risk of potential health issues.

Lees, Kathleen. "Some Baby Teethers Hold Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals." Science World Report, May 21, 2015. <http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/25816/20150521/some-baby-teethers-hold-endocrine-disrupting-chemicals.htm>

The data referenced in this article was originally published in the Journal of Applied Toxicology and may be accessed at:

Berger E, Potouridis T, Haeger A, Püttman W, Wagner M. Effect-directed identification of endocrine disruptors in plastic baby teethingers. *J Appl Toxicol*. 2015.

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