



American Medical Saliva Testing

Take Them out of the Ballgame?

New Source of Lead Cause for Concern in Some States as Study Details Threat of Lead in Popular Snack

A family in Virginia has become the subject of a growing investigation into the dangers of lead poisoning, this time from a new, yet common source. The culprit is sunflower seeds, and the dangers are reportedly significant.

[American Medical Saliva Testing](#) CEO Gene Elwell took up the investigation last March upon hearing the results of one of his client's tests. The situation originated from a recall of Reebok charms as demanded by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Grandfather Ken P used [AMSTI](#)'s saliva testing product on his granddaughter to determine if the child had in fact been poisoned by the charm.

The initial test results, generated by Hyphenated Solutions LLLP lab were troubling, leading Elwell to expand the investigation to include the girl's entire household. Both grandparents, Ken and Linda P, wore magnetic bracelets to combat arthritis pains, and it was discovered that the bracelets also had a significant lead content. The two removed their magnetic bracelets and a follow-up test was completed a week later. The results of this test showed a dramatic drop, almost 50%, in Ken's bloodstream, while Linda's lead levels more than doubled.

Makayla, their grandchild, was also tested. The child's results showed very high levels of lead as well. Subsequent interviews with the family trying to discover the root of such a wide discrepancy between Ken's low level, and Makayla's and Linda's high ones pointed to one suspicious commonality, Linda and Makayla shared a taste for sunflower seeds.

Elwell matched these initial results through additional follow-up tests with other sunflower seed consumers. These independent tests showed a high jump in lead levels after consuming a single bag of sunflower seeds. Although data is still being gathered, Elwell has begun to voice his concerns to the State Department of Health in New Jersey and Virginia, respectively.

The suspected danger from sunflower seeds is not limited to any specific brand. Just as with the Reebok charm bracelet, lead content is the culprit. The Reebok bracelet has been blamed for at least one death in Minnesota, in this instance from a child who ingested the charm. Tests on lead levels of the promotional item found levels which varied, reportedly as high as 67%. The legal maximum level for jewelry is .06%.

The situations have underscored the need for fast and reliable testing methods, such as the ones which [American Medical Saliva Testing](#) offers. The advantages in their method lie in the simplicity of the process, about as difficult as taking a child's temperature. The process is similar to taking a breathalyzer tests for the police, in this situation the test measures saliva instead of breath.

The testing uses a simple swab instead of a needle to draw blood. Saliva testing figures to play an expanded roll in the ongoing battle against Lead poisoning which continues to pose high risk to children and adults alike.

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