

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2005 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Project Number

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J0408

Project Title

Got a Bone to Pick

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My goal was to answer the question "Can Bones resorb calcium". My Hypothesis was yes, bones can resorb calcium.

Methods/Materials

First I decalcified the bones using Vinegar, is 6% Acetic acid (CH(3)COOH). Then I used Calcium Oxide (CaO), Pickling lime, to provide the calcium for the bones to resorb. I used chicken bones to conduct the experiment.

Results

My results showed that all the bones, when put in Vinegar, lost their calcium; the calcium in the bones reacted with the acetic acid and formed calcium acetate. Later on in my experiment I noticed that pickling lime, calcium oxide, helped the bones regain calcium. I also noticed that not all the calcium lost was regained.

Conclusions/Discussion

My hypothesis was correct. From my research I learned that osteoporosis is a disease that causes bone loss. Bone loss is the loss of calcium and minerals in a bone. I found that bone density is how tightly packed bones are or how many minerals are in a bone. I also learned about prevention methods and medication for osteoporosis.

Summary Statement

The focus of my project is to explore the possibility of reversing osteoporosis.

Help Received

Mother helped with cutting bones.