

Docket # 01N-0067 – AGAINST the FDA Rule on Mercury Dental Fillings

September 16, 2002

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To:
Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061-HFA-305
Rockville, MD 20852

I am the executive director of DAMS, Inc., a non-profit organization that educates the public on the toxic pitfalls in dentistry and the non-toxic or less toxic alternatives. Our office is based in Minneapolis, MN. On a daily basis, I am contacted by people who have symptoms of chronic mercury toxicity; many of them have already been diagnosed as being mercury toxic. They want to find dentists and other health care practitioners who can help them escape from the mercury toxicity and detoxify and recover their health. We help them by providing information necessary to that quest; it is often a long, expensive and difficult journey to recover from mercury toxicity. Understandably, they feel angry that their government's regulatory bodies have failed to warn them, and failed to protect them from such a well-documented health pitfall.

By now, you have received an abundance of information documenting the health hazards of dental mercury. Some has been provided by Bernie Windham, of Tallahassee, Florida, the President of our group. I will not try to add to that impressive pile of documented evidence, except to say: virtually all independent observers who look into this controversy with an open mind conclude, as we do, that dental mercury is not safe and should be avoided. Mercury is a potent neuro-toxin, and the amalgam filling is 50% mercury! Why cannot the FDA Dental Division fathom the truth that almost everyone else has arrived at? The only honest answer we can arrive at is: conflict of interest! We therefore must demand that the decision makers at the FDA on this rule must not be guilty of conflict of interest or even the appearance of conflict of interest. Independent scientists with the highest credentials should be well represented on the relevant rule-making body and there should be no one – I repeat, no one – who represents the interests of the American Dental Association or the manufacturers of amalgam. The ADA has a huge vested interest in the amalgam issue and, many think, is at the heart of a coverup, a whitewash, a PR campaign to mislead the public as to the safety of amalgam. Having the ADA representatives set the rule on amalgam would be like having tobacco executives sit in the jury in a civil trial over the harm done by tobacco.

To summarize: any rule making process that that is tainted by obvious conflict of interest within the body of rule makers is tainted and fatally flawed and it will be challenged. The stakes in this matter are far too high to just blow off! We will not stand for a rule that covers up the serious harm that clearly is being caused by widespread use of dental amalgam fillings.

Sincerely,



Leo Cashman, Executive Director
DAMS, Inc. (Dental Amalgam Mercury Syndrome)

ph: 800-311-6265



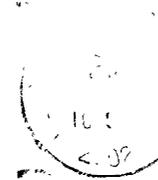
DAMS, Inc
P. O. Box 7249
Minneapolis, MN
55407-0249

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DAMS, Inc
PO Box 7249
Minneapolis, MN 55407



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