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From: [Carolyn Dohrenwend](mailto:Carolyn.Dohrenwend@fda.hhs.gov)

To: Michael.Adjodha@fda.hhs.gov

Sent: 08/23/2006 1:56 AM

Subject: Effects of Using Mercury in Dental Restorative Products - Oppose Use/Support Banning

Re: Joint Meeting of the Dental Products Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and the Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Scheduled September 6 and September 7, 2006

Attn: Michael Adjodha, Contact Person

Center for Devices and Radiological Health (HFZ-480)
Food and Drug Administration
9200 Corporate Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Adjodha,

I am writing to submit my own views and experience regarding the use of mercury in dental restorative products. I strongly oppose the use of mercury in dental restorative products and urge that these products be banned immediately.

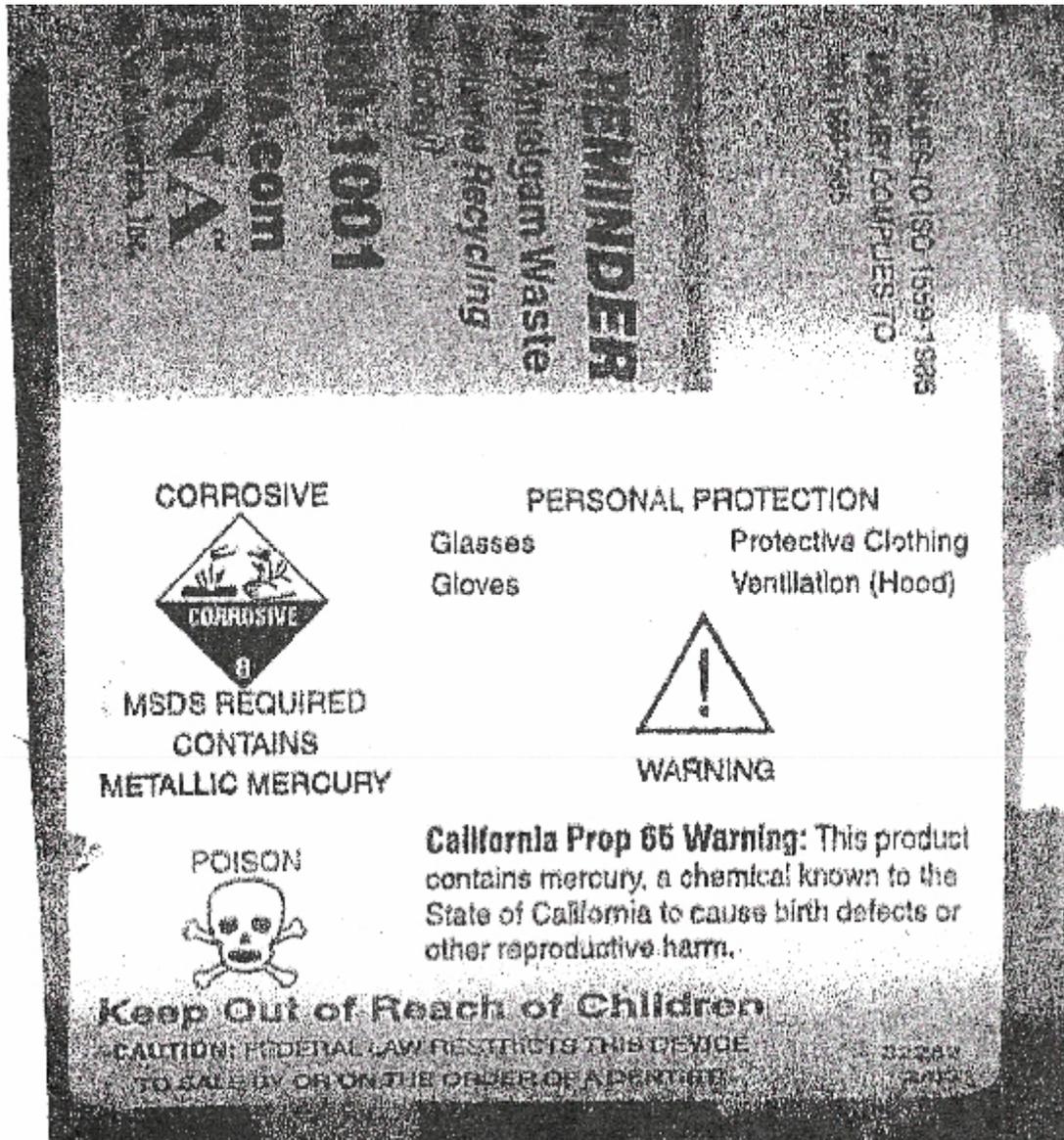
In 1999, I was diagnosed with mercury poisoning from my so called "silver dental fillings". My symptoms initially presented as extreme vertigo, impaired thinking, and fatigue. My ear drums were inflamed and no bacterial infections were present. Several other tests ruled out things like cardiovascular disease. After 7 weeks of no improvement, I was tested for heavy metal poisoning using a provocative protocol with DMPS. My mercury levels were highly elevated.

Other potential sources of mercury exposure were ruled out such as fish consumption and proximity to power generation using coal. My mercury poisoning was from my amalgam dental fillings.

I had all my visible dental fillings removed in 1999. In 2000, I was still experiencing some significant symptoms from the mercury poisoning and I chose to start to replace my crowns. The first porcelain over nickel crown was removed and there was a mercury dental filling underneath. This removal caused great distress to my kidneys and blood in my urine for a number of weeks. While my kidneys were not in failure, my kidneys were in crisis from the mercury. Shortly after the crown removals, I started to experience neuropathy like symptoms which lasted for the next 5 1/2 years.

The mercury in dental fillings is metallic mercury. Amalgam dental fillings come into a dentist's office with a skull and cross bones warning that it is a poison and must be disposed with the same skull and cross bones warning. How could a dental material that is toxic going in and toxic going out, *not be toxic in our mouths?*

I have attached a copy of the label of a container for amalgam waste. I wonder how the state of California knows that the mercury in dental fillings can cause birth defects and other reproductive harm and our federal government does not give warnings in the rest of our 49 states. I wonder why Canada has given warnings for mercury dental fillings for children and pregnant women for over a decade and our federal government does not. I wonder why dentists are allowed to use the deceptive term "silver fillings" by our government when amalgam fillings are mostly (average) 50% metallic mercury. I wonder why our federal government allows the use of mercury in dental fillings when it is well known our central nervous system is sensitive to any form of mercury.



Having spent the last 7 years of my life detoxing the mercury from my dental products, I know first hand how neurotoxic mercury is as well as immunotoxic. The amalgam dental fillings leak mercury vapor constantly. Even the American Dental Association (ADA)

now admits that the dental fillings leak mercury vapor after denying it vehemently for a number of years. I guess the films of the smoking teeth are hard for the ADA argue that mercury fillings don't leak without creating a serious credibility problem. See www.iaomt.org , click on the "Smoking Teeth".

Metallic mercury is the same mercury that schools are shut down when a thermometer is broken and hazardous materials crews are sent in because the mercury vapors are hazardous. Metallic mercury is bioaccumulative in humans just like mercury accumulates in tuna fish or other large fish that the FDA gives warnings for children and pregnant women not to eat because of the mercury content. A portion of the metallic mercury is converted to methylmercury in humans.

I strongly urge that any dental materials that contain mercury should be banned since they have and can cause serious neurological and immune issues. The FDA has never safety tested amalgams. The FDA does not require dentists or doctors to report mercury poisoning from dental fillings even though it is a serious device safety issue.

Clearly the toxicity of a material should not be determined by dentists. A well known neurotoxic material such as metallic mercury would not have been used for dental restorative fillings for so long. Mercury dental fillings are not needed, there are many other alternative dental filling materials that have been tested for toxicity and have an enormous margin of safety.

"The central nervous system is very sensitive to all forms of mercury. Methylmercury and metallic mercury are more harmful than other forms, because more mercury in these forms reaches the brain. Exposure to high levels of metallic mercury, organic, or inorganic mercury can permanently damage the brain, kidneys, or developing fetus." This is a quote from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs Mercury Cas #7439-97-6, April 1999. I wonder why the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Safety hasn't banned mercury fillings already.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

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