

MISDIAGNOSED MERCURY FILLINGS DID THIS TO ME



March 1998, Double vision 7 days after mercury fillings is placed

My name is Freya Koss. I am one of the thousands and perhaps millions of consumers who have sustained neurological injuries resulting from placement of amalgam dental fillings. Unfortunately, the majority of dental patients are unaware that their silver colored fillings contain 50% mercury, a known neurotoxin.

Although long overdue., I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this public forum and to share my personal experience with the hope that the information imparted by myself, scientists, doctors, lawyers and other injured consumers will be heard and reviewed with an open mind, honesty, fairness and most of all with scientific integrity. Until now, the Food and Drug Administration, by approving liquid elemental mercury as an allegedly safe class I material, by allowing implantation of the second most non-radioactive metal to be implanted into the body without classification nor proof of safety and/or efficacy, by not mandating consumer labeling of the health risks contained blatantly on the Amalgam Material Safety Data Sheets only visible to the dentist, the FDA has not only not protected the public, but has put the most vulnerable population of women and children at risk.

The FDA has allowed the continued implanting of mercury in people's teeth solely based on the anecdotal claim of its 150 years of use. FDA's Dr Susan Runner, branch chief of dental devices in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, despite a plethora of scientific evidence supporting the toxicity of amalgam fillings and the availability of non-mercury fillings, has emphatically, on several occasions, told me that the "Benefits of dental amalgam outweigh the risks", while not acknowledging that any risks exist. Considering the removal of

mercury from pet and childhood vaccines, contact lens solution, mercurochrome, thermometers, cars switches, thermostats and blood pressure machines, one must question what possible benefit a poison provides in the human body. Is the oral cavity the only safe haven for mercury?

It is and was not safe in my mouth or my body.

In March of 1998 while leaving the theater I was suddenly struck with double vision causing multiple images and acute sensitivity to light unable to drive home without closing one eye. Over the next nine days, the double vision worsened causing me to keep one eye closed at all times. Alarmed by my condition, my optometrist referred me to a neuro-ophthalmologist at a prominent teaching hospital. Although a brain MRI didn't reveal lesions, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and/or Lupus based on clinical symptoms and a 10,000 antinuclear antibody titer (ANA), elevated rheumatoid factor and liver enzymes. The ANA titer measures the amount and pattern of abnormal antibodies that work against the body's tissues indicating an autoimmune disease. Advised by the doctor that I would be chronically ill for the rest of my life and that there was no known cause or cure for MS or Lupus, only medication to suppress the symptoms, I rejected steroids and decided to find out what had caused this condition. MS would have been a life of drugs and the end of my life as I had known it.

Within a short period of time, relentless research led me to understand that the double vision was the result of acute mercury poisoning from the removal and replacement of an old amalgam filling just seven days prior to its onset. I was shocked to learn that silver fillings are actually mercury, and that it constantly leached being inhaled, ingested and stored in the brain, kidneys, liver, bones and fat tissues, and in my case, causing an autoimmune reaction with neuromuscular symptoms customarily seen in MS, Lupus and other autoimmune diseases.. Mercury was playing havoc in my body, and within a few weeks my eyelids began to droop, and another neuro-ophthalmologist diagnosed me with Myasthenia Gravis, a devastating neuro-muscular autoimmune disease. He suggested nerve conduction and acetylcholine receptor testing. Both proved to be positive, hence, Myasthenia Gravis was my diagnosis rather than MS.

Based on extensive scientific research, I was fairly certain that the autoimmune disease and neuromuscular symptoms which included muscle weakness, including loss of equilibrium, confusion, short term memory loss, cold extremities (later diagnosed as Raynaud's disease), skin rashes, neck and shoulder pain, leg cramps and very swollen lymph glands were the result of mercury toxicity. An environmental medical doctor confirmed my suspicions diagnosing me with mercury poisoning from dental amalgam fillings.

I had all of my fillings removed slowly and safely by a mercury-free dentist who had special equipment to protect the patient from mercury vapors during the removal, I worked with a physician who prescribed about a 100 vitamin supplements a day including large doses of Vitamin C and B complex, Vit. E and other anti-oxidants and amino acids. I changed my diet eliminating wheat and sugar, eating organic meat, poultry and vegetables and drank gallons of filtered water.

Slowly I recovered during a period of 3 to 4 years, and almost nine years later I am still detoxifying the mercury from my body.

There is no need to use mercury in dentistry considering safe alternatives, and it is incumbent upon the Food and Drug Association to mandate informed consent, to accurately classify mercury amalgams as a Class III implant and to give warnings for pregnant women and children, as done

in several other countries including Canada, Austria, France, Italy and the UK. In addition, the use of mercury in dentistry should be banned forever using the Precautionary Principa – DO NOT HARM.

Sincerely,

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