

I am writing to urge you and the FDA to outlaw the use of mercury in dental fillings.

Within the last six months I've had eight "silver amalgam" fillings removed from my mouth with the use of solid mercury waste mitigation and mercury vapor waste mitigation techniques, and replaced with non-mercury fillings. I had these procedures performed as soon as I learned of the explicit potential for mercury poisoning in my body caused from the leaching of mercury vapors from the "silver amalgam" fillings in my mouth.

Since mercury is one of the most toxic substances known to humans I believe there is no reason to allow it to be used in dental fillings. Many dentists do not use mercury in their materials to fill cavities in teeth these days, but it has not yet been officially outlawed and there are dentists that still use mercury. Mercury is so toxic that any production, storage or handling of it increases the risk it will accidentally escape from proper containment and poison our environment. Not to mention any side effects it may cause in patients' bodies when it leaches from their fillings. This practice should come to an end, now.

As for all of the dental patients who currently have "silver amalgam" fillings in their teeth, that contain mercury, I believe it is up to the individual to decide whether or not to have their mercury-containing fillings replaced with non-mercury materials, before the effective lifetime of their fillings are reached. But I also believe that the American Dental Association should substantively fund independent research to determine the potential hazards of retaining any fillings that have mercury in patients' mouths.

I've heard the argument that since mercury is bonded with the other metals contained in "silver amalgam" fillings in a particular way that there is no leaching of the mercury into the mouth of a person who has these fillings in their teeth. I do not believe there has been enough research done to make such a claim. And there is plenty of evidence available to make a strong case for their being a considerable level of toxicity leached into the mouth and then into the rest of the body by "silver amalgam" fillings.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Todd White