

August 23, 2006

Dear Mr. Adjoha—

I am writing in strong support of the efforts to ban mercury amalgam dental fillings once and for all, and greatly appreciate your time in reviewing this very serious matter.

While I have an undergraduate Ivy League education as well as a graduate degree from Harvard Business School, it does not take a lot of schooling or even raw intelligence to know that mercury is one of the most toxic substances on the planet. Furthermore, while most people are aware of the hazards of mercury toxicity in fish, and fish retailers provide information on the levels of mercury in various fish for consumers to decide what they want in their bodies, the ADA has been permitted to refer to mercury fillings as “silver fillings,” even though the majority of the material, 50%, is mercury. This is deceptive at best and should be illegal. To add insult to injury, the ADA and most dentists continue to tell consumers that there is nothing toxic about these fillings, even though equally good or even better non-toxic materials exist. **WHY IS THIS OK? WHO IS PROTECTING THE CONSUMER???** Would this be allowed in any other industry? I should think not. So why is this considered ok? Who are we protecting here, really?

Mercury is a known neuro-toxin that harms the developing brains of children and fetuses. It is no wonder that pharmaceutical companies were finally required to remove the mercury-based preservative, thimerosal, from the childhood vaccinations series. Why, then, is it ok to allow dentists to place mercury fillings in the mouths of women of child-bearing age and children? And why is it ok to place this substance in the mouths of human beings at all when dentists disposing the material must treat it as “hazardous waste” when it comes out of the teeth? There seems to be more concern about second hand exposure to mercury (ie improper disposal causing contamination of water and therefore fish, etc), than first hand exposure via implanting the stuff directly into human tissue. It makes no sense to the even the slightest of inquiring minds. And yet it goes on.

Please. In the best case the FDA should ban the use of mercury fillings at once. The US should join the other countries of the world who have banned amalgam and decided to worry less about the backlash on the dental industry and more about the health and education of the consumers on this most serious matter. At the very least, the FDA should order dentists to tell patients that silver fillings are 50% mercury, and provide information and literature to every patient about the toxicity of the substance. After all, this is America, and the people of this country assume they are being protected from this very type of deception via the FDA. Isn't this what FDA taxpayer dollars are meant for?

Thank you for anything you can do to fix this mess. It is hard to imagine how mercury fillings are being placed in human mouths at the same time that the government is working to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired electric power plants, the government readily acknowledges the danger in consuming mercury in fish, and

thimerosal was banned from the childhood vaccine series. Why are we allowing this to continue? It is one of the biggest mysteries of our time.

Sincerely,  
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