

Case History of Karen Palmer, America.

My name is Karen Palmer and I was diagnosed with heavy metal toxicity to mercury and lead in May 2004 after a year of testing. Not only did I have "silver" fillings in my mouth, I handled amalgam daily at my job as a dental assistant.

It started with intense pain in my lower left jaw, followed with parasthesia (numbness, tingling, burning sensations) from my head to my toes. The full body tremors were very scary. The overall sick feeling, fatigue and heaviness was especially difficult, as was my emotional state. So much happening all at the same time was overwhelming, to say the least! At times I thought I was losing my mind, not just my memory.

A neurologist thought I had MS because of my "sensory disturbances" but subsequent testing proved negative. He then sent me to a MS specialist who concluded I did not have MS, but that the left side of my brain was just more active and "misfiring" and said that I should forget about all of it and just get on with my life! I, however, was not convinced, but what more could I do? I had been to all the doctors and had all the tests, or so I thought.

About 4 months later, at a visit to my Chiropractor, she asked if they ever figured out what was wrong with me, to which I had to say "no". I proceeded to tell her what I was told and then she asked me if I was comfortable with that explanation? I, of course, said I was not. Then she began to test my reflex below my left knee, no response! That was very odd, I thought, and then I began to get really scared. That was far from normal! Then she strongly suggested that I should see her doctors which I did and that was the beginning of the end of my career in dentistry after 25+ years.

I knew little about Environmental Medicine doctors, so what an education this has been! I feel like I've taken an accelerated course in human biochemistry-toxicology-detoxification, but the amazing thing is it all makes total sense on so many levels!

Here's the thing; I knew there was mercury in the fillings but I thought I was protected from any harm because I wore a mask and gloves, but I was wrong. It wasn't until after I had stopped working that I learned that the mercury vapour goes right through the mask and gloves AND that there were and are special mercury vapour masks that I could have been wearing all along - had I been given all the proper information by the ADA, the organization we always relied on. What a huge mistake that has proven to be! And OSHA is no better! Why is it that in industry, employees of companies that handle mercury are given the proper safety equipment and tested regularly for chronic exposure???

Needless to say, I am outraged and pray the other 266,000 dental assistants in this country know more about mercury vapour toxicity than I did. And all the trusting patients that we are "first, to do no harm", I can't even go there. Words of apology can never make up for all the damage from being poisoned by a neurotoxin (brain poison) already known by most of the world! This country is far from leading in the area of mercury reduction. How is it even possible in this day and age of informed consent, that so many are still in the dark? People have a right to know! God forgive and help us all.