

## What The Amalgam Manufacturers Say

This is what the amalgam manufacturers say about their own products.

### The use of amalgam is contraindicated in:

Contact to dissimilar metal restorations

Patients with severe renal deficiency

Patients with known allergy to amalgam

For retrograde or endodontic fillings

Under a cast crown

In children under 6

In expectant mothers.

### Side effects:

- This product contains mercury that is known to cause birth defects.
- Lichen Planus may form on mucous membrane in contact with amalgam (Lichen Planus is a pre-cancerous condition)
- Inhalation of a high concentration of mercury vapour can cause almost immediate dyspnea, cough, fever, nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, stomatitis, salivation, metallic taste, gingivitis, and cardiac abnormalities.
- Respiratory irritation may occur with chest pain and tightness. Symptoms may resolve or may progress to necrotising bronchiolitis, pneumonia, pulmonary oedema, pneumothorax, interstitial fibrosis and death.
- Acidosis and renal damage may also occur.
- Allergy reactions that may occur in previously exposed persons include dermatitis, encephalitis and death.
- Metal fume fever, an influenza-like illness, may occur due to inhalation of freshly formed metal oxide particles. Symptoms may be delayed 4 to 12 hours and begin with sudden onset of thirst, a metallic taste in the mouth, dryness of mucous membranes, lassitude and a general feeling of malaise. Also fever, chills, muscular pain, mild to severe headaches, nausea, profuse sweating, excessive urination, diarrhoea and prostration can occur.
- Chronic Inhalation is characterised by fine tremors and erethism. Tremors first effect the hand then become evident in the face, arms and legs. Erethism is manifested by abnormal shyness, blushing, self-consciousness, depression or despondency, resentment of criticism, irritability or excitability, headache, fatigue and insomnia. In severe cases, hallucinations, loss of memory, and mental deterioration may occur. Concentrations as low as 0.03mg/m<sup>3</sup> (30ppm) have induced psychiatric symptoms in humans.
- Other effects may include salivation, gingivitis, stomatitis, loosening of teeth, blue lines of the gums, diarrhoea, chronic pneumonitis and mild anaemia.
- Tremors and involuntary movements can occur in babies still in the womb. Mercury is excreted in breast milk.
- Paternal reproductive effects and effects on fertility have been reported in male rats following repeated inhalation exposures.

### When placing or removing amalgam fillings:

- Protective Gloves must be worn.
- Safety Goggles must be worn.
- Appropriate protective clothing must be worn.
- Exhaust or general dilution ventilation must be employed to meet permissible exposure limits.

These are not our words, they are written by the amalgam producers about amalgam and included in the packs sold to dentists. The facts speak for themselves.