



FDA Urged by Scientists to Halt the Use of Mercury Fillings in Children, Pregnant Women & Hypersensitive

By Karen Larré, Truly Alive Publisher

In a January, 2011 article written by Charles G. Brown, attorney for Consumers for Dental Choice, Brown outlines the results of a two-day hearing to evaluate the safety of dental amalgam (mercury fillings):

FDA meeting: At the end of the two-day hearing to evaluate the safety of amalgam, FDA's own scientific panel – including neurologists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and environmental health specialists – told the agency to stop amalgam use in children, pregnant women, and hypersensitive populations.

“After reviewing the available scientific studies and the presentations of researchers, experts, dentists, and injured consumers, the scientists concluded that – contrary to the claims of FDA's in-house dentist, Dr. Susan Runner – amalgam is not safe for everybody. According to the panel, FDA's amalgam risk assessments were not adequate to protect hypersensitive adults, children, and unborn babies. Repeatedly, panel members expressed their concern about amalgam use in children. Pediatric neurologist Dr. Suresh Kotagal of the Mayo Clinic summed it up for the entire panel: ‘There is really no place for mercury in children.’ The panel urged FDA to quickly contraindicate amalgam for these vulnerable populations and insisted that FDA provide consumers with labeling containing clear warnings.

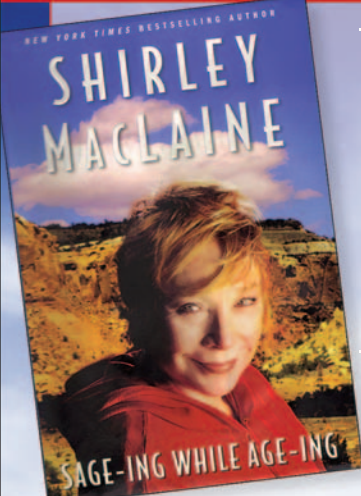
At the end of the hearing, presiding FDA official Anthony Watson, Director of the Division of Dental Devices, announced that FDA would act quickly in response to concerns raised by the panel. But already the FDA is ignoring the scientists. FDA's official summary of the hearings reads like the American Dental Association press release that was issued the day before, simply noting that more research is needed. The summary does not even mention the scientists' vocal cry for contraindications and restrictions to protect vulnerable populations, and even though panelists insisted that FDA has a responsibility to provide clear labeling for consumers, the summary twists their comments to absolve FDA of all responsibility. It claims that the panel only suggested the need for informed consent within the dentist-patient relationship.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced it intends to propose a rule to reduce mercury waste from dental offices. The mercury waste results when old mercury fillings are replaced with new fillings, and the mercury is flushed into chair-side drains and enters the wastewater systems, making its way into the environment through discharges into rivers and lakes. Approximately 50 percent of mercury entering local waste treatment plants comes from dental amalgam, accounting

for 3.7 tons of mercury discharged from dental offices each year! Amalgam separators installed in the plumbing of dental offices can separate out 95 percent of the mercury normally discharged to the local waste treatment plant, but until the rule is final, the EPA encourages dental offices to voluntarily install amalgam separators. However, the American Dental Association continues to state, ‘Dental amalgam has little effect on the environment...’ The proposed EPA ruling is scheduled to be finalized in 2012.

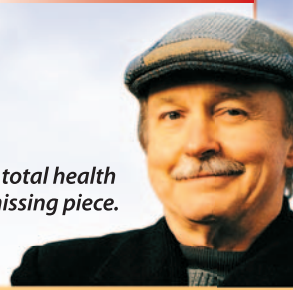
IN SUMMARY: *My opinion is that with so many passionate people providing credible scientific data on the dangers of and taking a stand against the use of amalgam (mercury) fillings, it is certainly only a matter of time until mercury fillings are banned in this country and around the world. In the meantime, share this information with everyone you love, as no one should have another mercury filling placed into their mouth; especially those who are considered vulnerable, and there is plenty of evidence that those of us who have mercury / silver fillings in our mouths could benefit greatly by their safe removal, post-haste!*

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