Dental Amalgam (Silver Filling)

What is Dental Amalgam (Silver Fillings)?

Most people recognize dental amalgams as silver fillings. Dental amalgam is a mixture of mercury, silver, tin and copper. Mercury, which makes up about 50 percent of the compound, is used to bind the materials together and to provide a strong, hard, durable filling. After years of research, mercury has been found to be the only element that will bind these metals together in such a way that can be easily manipulated into a tooth cavity.

Why do dentists use dental amalgam?

Dental amalgam has withstood the test of time, which is why it is the material of choice. It has a 150-year proven track record and is still one of the safest, durable and least expensive material used to fill a cavity.

Is mercury in dental amalgam safe?

Mercury in dental amalgam is not poisonous. When mercury is combined with other materials in dental amalgam, its chemical nature changes, so it is essentially harmless.

What about patients allergic to mercury?

The incidence of allergy to mercury is far less than one percent of the population. People suspected of having an allergy to mercury should be tested by qualified physicians, and, when necessary, seek appropriate alternatives.

I have been provided with this information and consent form so I may better understand the treatment recommended for me. I was provided with enough information, and I understand, and have made a well-informed decision regarding my proposed treatment.

I understand that I may ask any questions I wish, and that it is better to ask them before treatment begins than to wonder about it after treatment has started.