

Safe Removal of Amalgam Fillings

Dr. Mark McGuire, DDS • IAOMT Participant

Is there a concern about the use of mercury in dentistry?

Many people do not realize that "silver" amalgam fillings are 50% mercury. A large filling may contain as much mercury as a thermometer. Mercury vaporizes easily at room temperature, and in this state, is odorless, colorless and tasteless. Inhaled mercury vapor is readily absorbed into the bloodstream. The World Health Organization has concluded that dental fillings contribute more mercury to a person's body than all other sources of mercury combined. Mercury is a powerful poison. Published research demonstrates that mercury is more toxic than lead, cadmium or arsenic. No amount of exposure to mercury vapor can be considered harmless. Especially considering its cumulative effect.

Is there a proper way to remove mercury fillings?

To prevent additional mercury exposure, Dr. McGuire uses a safe mercury-removal protocol. The following amalgam removal techniques are used:

1. *Utilizing an efficient suction system in the oral cavity with a special tip or its equivalent to contain amalgam particles and mercury vapors.*
2. *Operating a vacuum system at maximum efficiency.*
3. *Applying copious amounts of water to the filling during removal.*
4. *Removing the amalgam in large segments to minimize the generation of mercury vapor and amalgam particulate.*
5. *Providing the patient and dental staff with a mercury free source of air. The dental staff wears special masks that prevent them from breathing in mercury vapors. Likewise, the patient is given supplemental oxygen as an alternate air-source, greatly reducing the amount of mercury particles and vapors that are breathed in. These protocols are provided as a service to you and are included in the cost of the filling; however, there is a minimal \$20 fee to cover our cost of the supplemental oxygen, due at time of service.*

I authorize that I understand the hazards of removing amalgam fillings, and give Dr. McGuire and his staff the permission to perform the necessary dental procedure.

Signature

Date

All of the above information was found on the IAOMT (International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology) website. For more information, please visit www.iaomt.org.