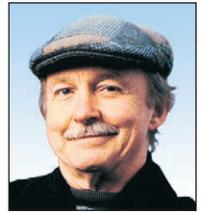




New UN Treaty on Mercury Requires Countries to Phase Down Dental Amalgam

By Dr. Joe Mercola (Excerpted from his online article 2/3/13)



Bill Wolfe, D.D.S.

The momentum toward mercury-free dentistry is gaining speed and, it appears, may be set to become a reality in the 21st century. The final mercury treaty session took place in Geneva, Switzerland in January 2013. There, the mercury treaty was finalized and included important provisions to reduce and eliminate mercury pollution; one of them being a requirement for countries to phase down the use of dental amalgam (mercury fillings).

As Michael T. Bender, director of the Mercury Policy Project, said: “This is the beginning of the end of dental amalgam globally.” The treaty, which has been under negotiation for four years (and could be signed as early as October), will require countries to undertake at least two of the prescribed steps to “phase down amalgam use.”

Among those measures listed are these: (1) Setting national objectives aimed at minimizing (amalgam) use; (2) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically-effective mercury-free alternatives; (3) Encouraging professional societies and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals in the use of mercury-free dental restoration; and (4) Encouraging insurance policies and programs that favor the use of quality alternatives to amalgam.

The success of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry,

created upon the recommendation of and led by Consumers for Dental Choice, shows that citizen action still can make progress over corporate power.

In October 2011, the U.S. State Department called for a “phase down” of mercury fillings, followed by an “eventual” phase out. The State Department’s submission to the Mercury International Negotiation Committee also called for: (1) Educating patients and parents (about amalgam) in order to protect children and fetuses (2) Training of dental professionals on the environmental impacts of mercury in dental amalgams.

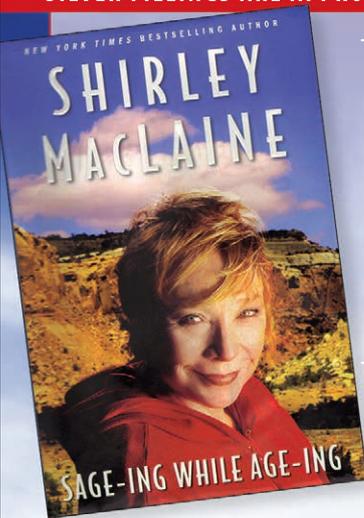
All individuals are exposed to mercury pollution to some degree. However, some groups are particularly exposed and/or vulnerable to the health effects of mercury pollution (principally in the form of methylmercury through diet), such as high-level fish consumers, women of childbearing age and children. This presents a risk of negative impacts on health, in particular affecting the nervous system and diminishing intellectual capacity. There are also environmental risks—for example; the disturbance of microbiological activity in soils and harm to wildlife populations.

Amalgams have been banned in several countries, including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, and largely in Japan. The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) also requested support for a phase-out of the use of mercury in dentistry, both in the EU and around the world. The environmental health effects of dental amalgam are well known and include brain damage and neurological problems, especially for children and the unborn babies of pregnant women. With dental mercury uncontrollably entering the environment from multiple pathways, phasing out amalgam and transitioning to non-mercury alternatives is the only way to reduce—and eventually eliminate—this significant source of mercury that threatens our environment and ultimately our health.

The American Dental Association (ADA), however, has continued to defend their use, even though amalgam fillings contain more toxic mercury than any other product sold in the United States *and* safer alternatives, such as resin composite, are readily available. This isn’t at all surprising, as the ADA has historically covered up the fact that the term “silver filling” to describe amalgams is profoundly deceptive, as the amalgam filling contains anywhere from 49 to 54 percent mercury, thus should be called “mercury fillings”, not “silver fillings”.

Even though the mercury treaty provisions are a major step forward in the phase-down and eventual phase-out of this toxic substance, support for Consumers for Dental Choice, which has worked to educate the government about dental mercury pollution and the many mercury-free alternatives to amalgam, is now more important than ever, so we ask for your help! Please consider a donation to Consumers for Dental Choice, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to working for mercury-free dentistry for every child and every adult, www.toxicteeth.org.

SILVER FILLINGS ARE APPROXIMATELY 50% MERCURY!



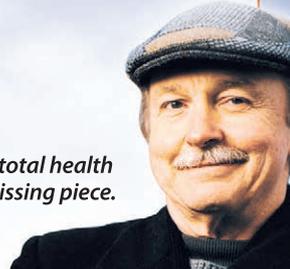
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