

OFFICE POLICY ON AMALGAM USE AND REMOVAL

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USE OF AMALGAM:

We choose not to use mercury amalgam fillings as a restorative material and instead choose to use other alternatives that are available to us, if a patient requests the use of amalgam fillings, we will refer them to a competent local dentist that is using amalgam as a restorative material.

REMOVAL OF AMALGAM: If a patient requests removal of their amalgam fillings, the following guide lines are followed.

1. There are no health claims to be made by having amalgam fillings removed. That is to say, no improvement of a patients health is ever implied when a patient has their amalgam fillings replaced. We strongly recommend that a patient consult with a physician about the effect of amalgams on their health. Their physician can best detect whether or not an allergy exists and answer any other health concerns.

2. Although it has been said in the media and in various other sources that there might be health problems associated with the use of amalgam fillings, the American Dental Association has said that they are safe to be used as a restorative material.

3. I understand that if my amalgam fillings are replaced with alternative materials there are risks to be found in possible damage to the tooth structure. There is a possibility that some tooth structure could be lost during the replacement process and this could cause the need for a restoration different than what was originally treatment planned. There is a possibility that the nerve could be damaged and a root canal might be necessary, possibly indicating the need for a post and/or crown as a restorative material. The risk of tooth structure and/or a root canal both mean that there is a possibility that an additional expense might be involved other than what was originally treatment planned. Any questions as to the meaning of the terms root canal or crown have been explained to me, the patient.

4. It has been explained to me the advantages and disadvantages of restorative materials that are alternative to amalgam. The composite plastic fillings might not last as long as amalgam fillings. The composite plastic fillings involve a more complex procedure than amalgam fillings therefore have a higher cost in comparison. The composite plastic fillings do bond to tooth structure and strengthen the tooth. If a crown is indicated to replace an amalgam filling, the patient should expect some tooth structure to be lost. This is done in order to make the crown fit correctly.

I have read the above and have asked any question that I might have that might not allow me to have a full understanding of amalgam use or removal.