



American Dental Association
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PANEL REPORT FINDS HEALTH CLAIMS AGAINST DENTAL AMALGAM LACK SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Chicago—A review of seven years worth of scientific studies concludes there is insufficient evidence “of a link between dental mercury and health problems, except in rare instances of allergic reactions,” according to a report released today by the Life Sciences Research Office, Inc. (LSRO) in Bethesda, MD.

LSRO conducted the independent scientific review of dental amalgam at the request of a work group made up of representatives from the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Public Health Service. The report, *Review and Analysis of the Literature on the Potential Adverse Health Effects of Dental Amalgam*, updates and reaches the same conclusion as two earlier reviews by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services of the dental material, which is an alloy made of silver, copper, tin and zinc, bound by elemental mercury. The silver-colored material is widely used to fill dental cavities.

“This report further substantiates the American Dental Association’s position that dental amalgam is a safe, effective material to fill cavities, based on science and clinical experience,” said Dr. James B. Bramson, ADA executive director. “Countless people’s teeth have been saved by using amalgam, which is one of the most durable and affordable cavity filling materials available, especially for large cavities in the back teeth where chewing forces are the greatest.”

The LSRO report was based on a review of nearly a thousand papers from peer-reviewed scientific literature along with public comments submitted to the Federal Register and involved a multidisciplinary panel of experts in fields such as toxicology, allergy, pediatrics, epidemiology and pathology.

Established in 1962, LSRO is a non-profit, independent organization with a worldwide network of experts that studies issues in biomedicine, healthcare, nutrition, food safety and the environment.

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The not-for-profit American Dental Association is the nation’s largest dental association, representing more than 149,000 members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public’s health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA’s state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer and professional products. For more information about the ADA, visit the Association’s Web site at www.ada.org.