



## CDA Position on **Dental Amalgam**

### **Preamble**

Because of the importance of questions which are being raised on dental amalgam and since the federal government is responsible for the safety of medical devices and materials, CDA has encouraged the federal government to support ongoing research in the dental amalgam area.

### **Position**

Current research on the use of dental amalgam supports that amalgam continues to demonstrate clear advantages in many applications over other restorative materials, especially in relation to the average duration of restorations.

Although amalgam fillings release minute amounts of mercury vapour, current scientific consensus supports the position that amalgam does not contribute to illness. It is recognized that there are individuals who are specifically sensitive or allergic to the components of amalgam and amalgam may not be suitable for all patients and in all circumstances. CDA bases its position on the existing scientific consensus on which government approval is based, and from the range of relevant scientific literature as distinct from individual and sometimes conflicting studies.

A common sense approach to the utilization of dental amalgam should be taken whereby patients discuss their specific circumstances with their dentist and choose the most appropriate restorative material for a particular application with each patient. Dentists want patients to be aware of conclusions from the range of scientific studies on dental amalgam and alternative materials so that the appropriate choice can be made.

Questions and answers, designed to assist in communication with patients, are also available from CDA.

*Approved  
CDA Board of Directors  
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