

September 6, 2006



*A forum for breaking news and
timely information from the ADA*

ADA Testifies Before FDA on Dental Filling Safety

Story Receives Widespread Media Coverage

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is holding a two-day panel meeting today and tomorrow to gather facts and opinions regarding dental amalgam. ADA representatives, as well as a number of witnesses from other dental organizations, are testifying at the meeting. Numerous other individuals will also testify, including two international participants describing the basis for their countries' regulation of amalgam. Time has been set aside for comments from the public, and we expect a number of dental amalgam opponents will share their views.

The FDA has prepared a draft report in advance of the meeting that supports the safety of dental amalgam. No specific FDA regulatory action is expected; however, this meeting has received widespread media coverage due primarily to Associated Press and CBS network radio stories. Both stories cited the ADA's position that the weight of scientific evidence indicates dental amalgam is a safe and effective restorative material. NBC Nightly News is also covering this story, and may air its segment tomorrow night.

Should your patients ask about the safety of dental amalgam, please feel free to point out the following:

- Dentists welcome this review of the science by the FDA.
- The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence, including two recent clinical trials published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, support the safety and effectiveness of dental amalgam.
- Dental amalgam contains elemental mercury combined with other metals such as silver, copper, tin and zinc, which forms a safe, stable cavity-filling material. It's important to note that dental amalgam has entirely different properties than mercury by itself.
- Amalgam is one of several safe, effective materials to fill cavities. Other materials include gold and tooth-colored fillings.

You can also print out and share the following information with your patients:

- A news release about the FDA meeting and testimony from our three representatives is posted on ADA.org.

- Dental Filling Options: [information for patients](#)
- An ADA [press statement](#) on the dental amalgam clinical trials published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- A *Journal of the American Dental Association* patient page entitled, [When A Filling Needs to be Replaced](#).

You may also wish to order the patient brochure: *Choices for Restoring Your Smile* by calling 800-947-4746 or visiting www.adacatalog.org.

For further information about dental restorative materials, please contact the ADA Division of Science at 800-621-8099, x2878 or science@ada.org.

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