Contribution de huit sociétés dentaires européennes au Scenihr

Eight dental societies, all for MERCURY-FREE dentistry: Accademia Internazionale di Odontoiatria Biologica, British Society of Mercury-Free Dentists, Deutscher Berufsverband der Umweltmediziner, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Umwelt-Zahnmedizin, European Academy for Environmental Medicine e.V. , International Academy of Oral Medicine & Toxicology--Europe, IAOMT-Sweden, MERCURIADOS (Dental Section)

Question 1: Are mercury releases caused by the use of dental amalgam a risk to the environment? The fate of mercury released from dental clinics as well as the fate of mercury released to air, water and soil from fillings placed in patients should be taken into account

All dentist members of our eight associations -- from Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom -- practice mercury-free dentistry. We support, and refer you to, the submission by European Environmental Bureau/World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry/Mercury Policy Project, a comprehensive and thoroughly research report on how the SCHER report should be improved. Our contribution is in response to your question 9.

Question 2: Is it scientifically justified to conclude that mercury in dental amalgam could cause serious effects on human health due to mercury releases into the environment?

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Question 3: Comparison of environmental risk from the use of mercury in dental amalgam and the use of alternatives without mercury

Responsible dentists and dental manufacturers have long expected and been prepared for regulations to end amalgam use (see note 1, below). Lobbyists for the Council of European Dentists are entitled to speak for themselves -- but they no longer represent the views or the outlook of the majority of practicing European dentists. We practicing dentists do. As dental societies representing practicing dentists, we ask that you also consider: • Based on our years of experience, we have found that there is no need for dental amalgam in Europe. Mercury-free alternatives are proven effective – and even superior – for all clinical situations (see note 2, below). • No reason, no public benefit whatsoever, exists to keep amalgam. Not only is it no longer needed, but it is a primitive material which leads to cracked teeth; it is inimical to modern dentistry's focus on minimally-invasive dentistry. • Amalgam separators address but one pathway of dental mercury into the environment. They in way solve the problem of dental mercury pollution, and not just because separators do not catch all mercury. Most mercury walks out of the office, in the patients, and from there enters the environment via multiple pathways: air, soil, and water. From there, it can convert to methylmercury. The solution is not to catch dental waste; the solution is source control -- phase out this 19th-century product. • There is no advantage to amalgam, but its patent disadvantages -- massive pollution into Europe's air, water, land, and dental offices -- make urgent its demise. By ending amalgam use, we significantly reduce mercury in the environment and people's exposure to methylmercury while at the same time delivering higher quality dental care with 21st century mercury-free materials.

Note 1: European Dental Materials Conference, The Demise of Amalgam Use and Development of Enhanced Materials to Advance Novel Dentistry, Birmingham (29-30 August 2013), http://www.europeandentalmaterials.com/Programme/

Note 2: N.J.M. Opdam, E.M. Bronkhorst, B.A.C. Loomans, and M.-C.D.N.J.M. Huysmana, 12-Year Survival of Composite vs. Amalgam Restorations, JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH (October 2010), Vol. 89, 10: pp. 1063-1067, http://jdr.sagepub.com/content/89/10/1063.abstract; Opdam NJ, Bronkhurst EM, Roeters JM, Loomans BA. A retrospective clinical study on longevity of posterior composite and amalgam restorations. Dent Mater 2007;23(1):2-8, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16417916 ; BIO Intelligence Service (2012), Study on the potential for reducing mercury pollution from dental amalgam and batteries, Final report prepared for the European Commission-DG ENV, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/Final_report_11.07.12.pdf; BIO Intelligence Service (2012), Study on the potential for reducing mercury pollution from dental amalgam and batteries, Final report prepared for the European Commission-DG ENV, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/Final_report_11.07.12.pdf, p.69; World Health Organization, FUTURE USE OF MATERIALS FOR DENTAL RESTORATION (2011), http://www.who.int/oral_health/publications/dental_material_2011.pdf, p.16 ("Adhesive resin materials [such as composite] allow for less tooth destruction and, as a result, a longer survival of the tooth itself. Funding agencies should take the initiative and encourage the replacement of amalgam as the material of choice for posterior teeth with adhesive systems.")