The Role of Dental Amalgam from an Environmental Perspective.

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Dentistry and Mercury

Within the healthcare arena, dentistry is one of the largest end-user of Mercury.

One of the most common filling materials used is Dental Amalgam (silver filling).

Dental amalgam filling is made up of mixture of Silver, Copper and Tin, all in powder form which is mixed with liquid mercury (process of mixing is called amalgamation)

Dental amalgam is then plugged into the tooth cavity and any excess is spitted out.

There are two modes of amalgamation:

Mechanized: Capsules containing a precise ratio of powder and mercury are mixed in a vibratory machine. This is the recommended method but carries an inherent cost factor.

Manual: Powder and liquid Hg are mixed in a pestle and mortar. Usually Hg is in excess and has to be squeezed out before placing into the tooth. Most commonly used method because it is cheap and easy.

Film on amalgamation



Points of Hg contamination from a dental office





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malgam controversy

Knowing the hazards of mercury, why are fillings still used?

profession has been embroiled in the 'Amalgam controversy' for the past two – "**to use or not to use**"

Jestions:

amalgam fillings contribute to mercury the patient? does amalgam use contribute to the global nercury?