

# Editorial



## **Amalgam... Food for Thought?**

Many dental surgeons still find amalgam to be a stable material for fillings. Sometimes it may be prudent to consider the toxicity and biocompatibility of all restorative materials, we are likely to use in children and young adults.

Sometimes the alternatives to amalgam still do not find much of a place or improved qualities, which subscribe its use in public dental care. The environmental hazards caused due to amalgam use can prove to be far more dangerous than the toxicity it causes in individuals. Some of the modern disposal processes are more sophisticated and prevent mercury emissions but the question I have is... how many practitioners really are conscious? Has our preventive care advanced so much that we can do away with the use of amalgam? Or, is it well worth understanding the potential problems with, any likely impact of the available substitutes to the age old amalgam magic.

We surely need clear and standard guidelines to be followed world over and not just in some countries. It is mandatory to educate service providers in proper mercury hygiene measures or else we may be on the brink of an environmental catastrophe we all may not be so proud of! If we do not take prudential steps in protecting the environment we work in and mostly live in, we truly become game changers in questioning the recent WHO funda which propagates the 'phasing down and not phasing out of amalgam'... Food for thought!

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