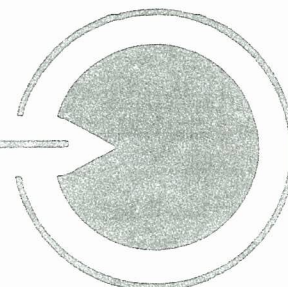


BIO-PROBE

NEWSLETTER



Volume 5

July 1989

Issue 4

DENTAL AMALGAM - CURRENT EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD

In the past year, considerable progress has been made in the opposition to the use of silver/mercury amalgam dental fillings. More and more condemning research has appeared and the world scientific community has taken notice. The controversy has spread beyond the dental profession. Renowned toxicologists, medical researchers, and even the World Health Organization's (WHO) select committee are now considering exposure to mercury from dental amalgam fillings.

Even more dramatically, the public is becoming alarmed. The progress made in Sweden by the anti-amalgam public organization has stimulated similar movements in the United States and elsewhere. These highly motivated individuals are determined that the public and governments be made aware of the facts in the controversy. Their activities are stimulating media interest and even governmental investigation around the world.

AUSTRALIA: The Australian edition of television's '60 minutes' recently featured the controversy over the use of mercury amalgam dental fillings. This represents a major breakthrough in media interest of the subject.

CANADA: Soon to be published research, conducted in the medical school at Calgary by responsible researchers led by Dr. Murray J. Vimy, will contribute dramatic evidence to the amalgam controversy.

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GREAT BRITAIN: The following newspaper report, entitled "Tooth Tale" was recently sent to us: "When Princess Dianna's usually radiant smile dimmed a bit recently, Buckingham Palace told concerned subjects her wisdom teeth had been yanked. But when she easily downed a four-course charity luncheon just days after surgery, oral surgeons raised a collective eyebrow. Was the Crown covering up a toothy secret? Word is that Her Highness had her metal fillings changed to new ceramic ones after reading about potential danger from mercury in the old fillings. But since British socialized medicine pays only for metal fillings, the palace allegedly crafted the wisdom-tooth tale so the entire populace wouldn't feel endangered." The article appeared recently in the New York Post under the by-line of Clare McHugh.

This report emanated from a series of articles that appeared in newspapers in London, England from the 19th to the 26th of June. The first report was filed by a reporter named Chris Hutchins on June 19th, 1989. He stated that Princess Diana had her amalgams replaced with composites after being urged by the Queen to read

a book on the subject. The article stressed the potential harmful effects of mercury exposure from dental amalgam fillings, particularly on behavior and the immune system. The official statement from Buckingham Palace was that the Princess had her wisdom teeth extracted. The article stressed the widespread skepticism of this explanation since the Princess showed absolutely no signs of having extractions performed. A follow up story appeared in the same publication, London's "Today", on the following day.

A subsequent article appeared in the London Sunday Times on 25 June 1989. The reporter, Neville Hodgkinson, began with the disclaimer from Buckingham Palace but decided to investigate the issue of toxicity from dental amalgam fillings nonetheless. Stressing the current research the reporter condemned the use of amalgam fillings.

JAPAN: A forthcoming, August 1989, world congress will feature two prominent amalgam biocompatibility researchers, both of whom are members of The International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology. IAOMT founder and president emeritus Murray J. Vimy, D.M.D. and Karolinska Institute researcher Magnus Nylander, D.D.S. Dr. Nylander will be a day Chairman and both he and Dr. Vimy will be presenting papers to the congress on their recent research.

SWEDEN: Effective July 1, 1989 the State health insurance program will pay for the exchange of amalgam fillings for a non-amalgam restoration if the patient does not have medical problems that may be exacerbated by amalgam replacement. Further, the insurance program will now also pay for the complete replacement of amalgam fillings when directed by the patient's physician.

The health department of the Swedish government had previously issued a public warning against the use of amalgam fillings in pregnant women. In addition, the Swedish Parliament had conducted a hearing on the controversy and issued a statement that the use of dental amalgam fillings should be stopped as soon as suitable replacements are available. Anti-amalgam forces in Sweden are now providing Parliament with the documented research demonstrating that composites are a suitable material. A chapter of the IAOMT is being formed in Sweden.

WEST GERMANY: A petition calling for the government health insurance to cease paying for silver/mercury amalgam fillings was circulated to dentists in West Germany. More than one third of the dentists signed the petition. It is not known what action the government will take in response to the petition but it may be anticipated that they will follow the lead of Sweden.

The health department of the government of West Germany had previously issued a public warning against the use of amalgam fillings in pregnant women. Three West German dentists are attending the IAOMT Annual Meeting in Detroit and are forming an IAOMT chapter in their country.

UNITED STATES: Dramatic progress is now being made in a number of states, spearheaded by individuals who have formed public anti-amalgam groups. These groups are being chartered as DAMS (Dental Amalgam Mercury Syndrome) and are dedicated to enhancing the public awareness of mercury exposure from amalgam fillings and enacting Right to Know and Informed Consent legislation regarding the use of dental amalgam. The organization is chartered as ADAMS (A Dental Amalgam Mercury Syndrome) in the state of Washington. The IAOMT has offered to provide dental advisory consultants to these groups. Bio-Probe readers are urged to actively support the chapter in your area or to help form one if none yet exists.

In the past year, tremendous progress has been made by these highly motivated and dedicated individuals. Legislative initiatives for Informed Consent and/or Right to Know regarding the use of dental amalgam have already been made in Alaska, North Carolina, Colorado, Michigan, and California. Active chapters also function in Illinois and Washington. New chapters have already formed in New York, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania. Initiatives for new chapters are beginning in Nevada, Florida, and Tennessee. In addition to the legislative initiatives, these groups are attracting considerable media attention to the amalgam controversy. Newspapers, radio and television talk shows, and magazines are increasingly viewing the subject. Nationally syndicated radio and television shows are now showing interest.