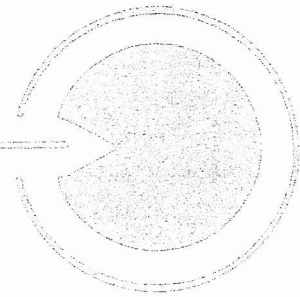


BIO-PROBE

NEWSLETTER



Volume 13

March 1997

Issue 2

AMALGAM "COVER UP" EXPOSED IN CANADA!!

"Decouverte" is the French word for "Discovery." It is the title of a respected news program on the French network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Decouverte's mission is to "discover" scientific issues that might be covered up. Last October, Decouverte aired a 16 minute report on the health risks of amalgam following publication of Health Canada's Position Paper on the issue. The show was so unfavorable to the pro-amalgam position that it elicited public outcry in dental offices everywhere in Quebec. The following week, the Order of Dentists of Quebec published rebuttals in major newspapers across the province to reassure dental patients of the "total safety and biocompatibility" of dental amalgam!

On 23 February, Decouverte aired a second report on amalgam, this time exposing Health Canada's failure to inform Canadians of the possible dangers of this material. Since 1976, four Health Canada reports by medical scientists have warned of these dangers; only in 1996 did Health Canada publish a position statement on amalgam, recommending dentists limit its use in certain groups of patients.

Table of Contents

Amalgam "Cover Up" Exposed in Canada	1
Amalgam Class Action Suit in Canada	2
Amalgam Ban Demanded in Germany	2
Activity in Iowa on Dental Amalgam	4
Academic Freedom Rejected in New Mexico.....	5
Biocompatibility of Dental Composites Formally Addressed	5
SCIENCE:	
Mercury vapor inhalation inhibits binding of GTP to tubulin in rat brain: Similarity to a molecular lesion in AD brain.....	5
A Monte Carlo assessment of mercury exposure and risks from dental amalgam. Richardson GM, Allan M	6
Elimination of aerosols during air abrasive cavity preparation.....	6
Release of estrogenic component Bisphenol-A not detected from fissure sealants in vitro. Hamid A, Hume WR	7
CaOH ₂ penetration into dentinal tubules relating to the intracanal dressing application time. Lage-Marques et al.....	7
In vitro determination of direct antimicrobial effect of CaOH ₂	8
IAOMT 1997 Spring Symposium	8

© 1997 by Bio-Probe, Inc. The Bio-Probe Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Editorial office is at 5508 Edgewater Dr., Orlando, FL 32810. U.S. and Canada subscription price \$65.00 per year, other foreign \$80.00. Postage paid at Orlando.

The program started with host Charles Tisseyre informing viewers that a group of Canadian dental patients had this week announced their intention to file a class action suit against Health Canada, the Canadian Dental Association and amalgam manufacturers for failure to inform them of the possible side effects of amalgams.

Since 1982, according to Canadian law, all medical devices destined to be implanted in the human body for more than 30 days must have pre-market studies done to prove their safety and biocompatibility. The president of the Canadian Dental Association admitted his predecessors and the dental industry had lobbied the government to exclude dental restorative materials "that do not come into contact with blood" from this law. Decouverte obtained information that this was to protect small amalgam manufacturers who did not have the necessary funds to complete these studies.

Dr. Pierre Blais, former risk analyst with Health Canada and author of its 1976 report on amalgam, denounced this lack of quality control saying how "he could manufacture cadmium or other metal filings and sell them as amalgam and it would take months or years before it would be found out." He shared how the continued use of amalgam was contrary to Health Canada's policy on mercury hygiene and pollution control: "The Government was concerned over picograms and micrograms of mercury in apples and looked the other way when milligrams, one million times more, were being implanted directly into a child's mouth."

When asked why it took 20 years to publish a position paper on amalgam, Richard Tobin, Director of Health Canada's Medical Devices Bureau, said in interview that he was not aware that Canadians were not informed of the possible dangers of amalgam and that the risk was deemed minimal anyway. Questioned about the Quebec Order of Dentists advertisement claiming "total safety" of amalgam mercury exposure, Dr. Tobin said he was not in agreement with it and he would have to discuss it with the Order. The president of the Quebec Order of Dentists declined invitation to be interviewed and explain his point of view on Decouverte.

Dr. Mark Richardson's studies on the relative risks of mercury in amalgams and bisphenol-A in composites were quoted: The average Canadian, with 8 amalgams,