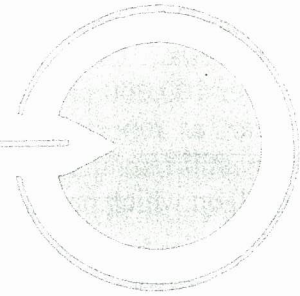


# BIO-PROBE

# NEWSLETTER



Volume 15

January 1999

Issue 1

## AMALGAM CLASS ACTION SUIT IN CANADA

The class action lawsuit against mercury/silver amalgam dental fillings has survived its first legal challenge. Lawyers for the defendants (Health Canada and several amalgam manufacturers) filed for dismissal of the lawsuit on 23 November 1998, on the claim of "failure to demonstrate a reasonable cause of action."

At the beginning of the day, the lawyers for the amalgam manufacturers withdrew from the motion, leaving Health Canada lawyers to argue the case, vigorously for over three hours. The argument was that Health Canada's actions on amalgam constituted a "Policy Decision" rather than an "Operational Decision" and, therefore, no duty of care is obliged to the public!

The judge was unconvinced! He dismissed the motion. The case is now expected to go before the

courts for Certification under the "Class Proceedings Act" early in 1999.

A representative for *Canadians For Mercury Relief*, an organization actively promoting public education on mercury fillings, questioned the argument of the Health Canada lawyers, stating: "Why is our Health Minister, an obvious policy maker, making promises through the media if he has no duty or obligation to protect the public. Why doesn't he get up and tell the media and the Canadian public that government policy provides that he has no duty to protect us?"

For more information, contact: Wayne Obie, Media & Public Relations, Talk International; T: (416) 410-6314; Email: [communications@talkinternational.com](mailto:communications@talkinternational.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

## DOES IT HAVE HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS??

\*\* Does it Work?? \*\* Does it have harmful side effects??

These are the two questions that must be asked when recommending the use of any medical therapy! Biological doctors have asked these questions about mercury/silver amalgam dental fillings. Do they work? Yes they do! However, the scientific research provides sufficient evidence of potential for harmful side effects to argue against their use. Efficacy, economy, and ease of use are not valid reasons to ignore the possibility of adverse health effects. Consideration of suitable available alternatives demonstrating fewer, or preferably no potential adverse effects is not only essential, but is the foundation of Biological Dentistry.

Physicians normally practice and prescribe medication under the protection of FDA approval, with

## Table of Contents

Amalgam class action suit in Canada .....	1
Does it have harmful side effects? .....	1
Dental Board Update.....	2
Mercury-Free Bumper Sticker .....	3
SCIENCE:	
Mercury vapor release from dental amalgam after laser treatment.....	3
MR findings of Minamata Disease: Organic mercury poisoning .....	3
Effects of micronutrients on metal toxicity.....	4
Degree of peroxidative status in neuronal tissues by different routes of inorganic mercury administration .....	4
Reversible color vision loss in occupational exposure to metallic mercury .....	4
Mercury content in amalgam tattoos of human oral mucosa and its relation to local tissue reactions .....	5
Influence of chronic mercury poisoning upon the connective tissues in rats: I: Effect of mercuric chloride on glycosaminoglycan levels .....	5
Influence of chronic mercury poisoning upon the connective tissue in rats: II: Effect of mercuric chloride on collagen and elastin.....	5
Effect of mercuric chloride poisoning on iron distribution in rats.....	5
Antibiotic resistance in oral/respiratory bacteria .....	6
Participation of mercuric conjugates of cysteine, homocysteine, and NAC in mechanisms involved in the renal tubular uptake of inorganic mercury.....	6
HgCl <sub>2</sub> -induced acute renal failure and its pathology.....	7
Human interindividual variability - A major source of uncertainty .....	7
FORUM: IAOMT .....	7/8

© 1999 by Bio-Probe, Inc. The Bio-Probe Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Editorial office is at 5508 Edgewater Dr., Orlando, FL 32810. Subscription price in U.S. Funds, U.S. and Canada \$65.00 per year, all other countries \$80.00. Postage paid at Orlando. (407) 290-9670.

research and known side effects readily available in the PDR.. Dentists also operate under this protective umbrella. Even under this protection there were over 100,000 prescription drug related deaths one year, as reported in a recent JAMA article. Therapy still remains judgmental and a risk assessment call on which products to use and prescribe for patients.

Health care providers must be aware of the potential risks, as well as the documented benefits of therapy provided. For example, *British Anti-Levisite* (BAL) is a very effect agent for removing mercury from the body, but has severe side effects. DMPS and DMSA are less effective and do have potential side effects, but these effects are less frequent and less severe than those from BAL. Risk-benefit comparisons, based on valid documentation, favor the use of DMPS or DMSA over BAL.

The point being addressed is the recommendation (and/or sale) of products that may or may not have any valid documentation supporting their use. The two vital questions **MUST** be asked for any therapy utilized by biological doctors. The potential for trouble was underscored by a recent article in a Florida newspaper. Scientists have been searching for, and finally found, the cause of numerous deaths of turtles in Florida. The cause is severe liver damage caused by a species of *Blue-Green Algae*! Many doctors are now prescribing or recommending the use of different algae. There are a myriad of different algae. Some are more toxic than others; some have adequate research supporting their use in humans; many have no valid documentation supporting safety or efficacy. The fact that there are many species of algae, and not all have the potential for severe harm, does not relieve doctors of the responsibility for knowledge on materials that they do use. Ask the two vital questions: Is there valid, independent (not by manufacturer or seller) documentation demonstrating that it works in humans? Is there valid independent documentation on its potential for adverse effects in humans? Health care of patients demands special care, morally and legally.

To illustrate the point, consider a hypothetical example of the use of a hypothetical algae, *Asparagus Schmidlapia* ("AS"). You attend a seminar where a very impressive lecturer advocates the use of "AS". You like what you hear, so much so that

you do not even ask for documentation supporting the efficacy and SAFETY of "AS." You are so impressed that you may even purchase a stock of the product right at the seminar, so that it is readily available for use or sale to your patients. You administer, or recommend, "AS" to a patient to remove mercury from the body. Patient dies. An autopsy is performed. Cause of death is determined to be severe liver damage caused by "AS". You have no documentation to support the safety of "AS". Where are you? If sued or prosecuted, your professional career is now over. How many more patients can you now help?

This is not to say that any pharmaceutical or non-pharmaceutical agent is free of risk. The intention of this article is not to condemn any one product or material. Algae is only used as an example of potential for problems, as brought to light by the Florida newspaper article. The *International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology* (IAOMT) is now developing "Standards of Care" for Anti-Toxic Therapy. The goal is to determine which materials and procedures have documentation supporting their use and which ones do not. Some may be given approval by IAOMT and some may be designated as not approved. Through this program, practitioners will at least know the status of particular agents. This will provide a foundation of valid knowledge upon which to base anti-toxic therapy.

The safe and prudent course for health care providers is to always seek valid documentation supporting the efficacy and safety of any treatment modality. **If documentation is absent - be cautious!**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DENTAL BOARD UPDATE

As of this writing, *Bio-Probe* is aware of only two mercury-free dentists under attack by state dental boards. Not that long ago, there were over twenty under attack in a dozen states. The present situation is a tribute to the efforts of many people, not the least of which are attorneys Charles Brown and James Turner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Swankin & Turner, and attorneys James Love and Robert Reeves. The efforts of these attorneys, and others, have led to victories in many states. At least a dozen cases against mercury-free dentists have been dismissed by state dental boards in the