

## Editorial

### Who are our real terrorists in 2008?

**Boyd E. Haley, PhD**

Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506-0055  
Email: behaley@uky.edu

#### **Abstract**

Current ADA opinion regarding dental amalgam is that it is safe even though it contains about 500,000 parts per million mercury which constantly leaches out at scientifically measured rates that should not be accepted by any dental device. Supporting a device that contains about 500,000 ppm of exceptionally neurotoxic mercury while objecting to devices containing about 185 ppm, on the average, of a less toxic lead seems quite inconsistent—unless the ADA's concern has nothing to do with human health.

Bottom line, the U.S. health care organizations can apparently expose you to all of the toxins they want without any real concern for legal, FDA or congressional action, but we can not let the Chinese do the same.

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**Keywords:** lead contamination, dental amalgams, American Dental Association (ADA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), mercury, vaccines

It was recently reported that researchers uncovered lead contamination levels at 160-210 parts per million in dental crown and bridge prostheses manufactured in China. Leaving lead in children's toys is one thing, but to place the lead in a device that is placed in the mouth is more serious—I think. This has caused alarm in many individuals and needs to be put into context.

In the ADA News March 3, 2008, Dr. Feldman, President of the American Dental Association (ADA) was quoted as saying: "There is no appropriate use of lead in the manufacturing of dental prostheses...Our task now is to learn what the ADA can do to help prevent our members and our patients from ever hearing this kind of news again."

In contrast, current ADA opinion regarding dental amalgam is that it is safe even though it contains 500,000 parts per million mercury, which constantly leaches out at scientifically measured rates that should not be accepted for any dental device. Note, it is generally agreed among heavy metal toxicologists that mercury is much more toxic to humans than lead. Yet the ADA steadfastly fights for the rights of American dentists to place this toxic material into our mothers and children even though, on toxicity grounds, such uses have been recently totally outlawed in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Supporting a device that contains about 500,000 ppm (50%) of exceptionally neurotoxic mercury while objecting to a device containing about 185 ppm of less toxic lead seems quite inconsistent—unless the ADA's concern has nothing to do with human health. Visit the ADA website and you will see that dental amalgams are deemed safe by the FDA (Food and Drug

Administration) even though they continually emit the most toxic form of mercury.

Last Friday March 28, 2008, members of the International Academy of Oral and Medical Toxicology (IAOMT, see [www.iaomt.org](http://www.iaomt.org)) scientific advisory board met with a senior FDA official and the dental devices group members of the FDA to discuss the possibility of the FDA at least evaluating dental amalgams (yes, the FDA has never safety tested nor categorized dental amalgams as a device). The concern was placement in mothers to be and children. We know that recent research shows that dental amalgams, placed by your friendly neighborhood dentist, account for about 80% of the mercury in your body. For those with mercury-amalgam fillings, fish are not the contributor they need to worry about most—yet, the FDA has released warnings about fish, but not about amalgam fillings. It is also well known that mercury is higher in cord blood than in the mothers' blood, that mercury crosses the placenta, enters the unborn infant, and may cause neurological damage as it does in test animals. Mercury vapor also crosses the blood-brain barrier into the brain where, after being oxidized, it may be trapped for many years.

Yet, the FDA has steadfastly refused, and still refuses today, to even support or require that the manufacturers of dental amalgam submit any proof of safety! Does this remind you of the CDC and vaccine injected mercury?

Bottom line, the U.S. health care organizations can apparently expose you to all of the toxins they want without any real concern for legal, FDA or congressional action, but we can not let the Chinese do the same.