

The African amalgam amendment: protecting our environment, our health and our children

World Alliance for Mercury-free Dentistry

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World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry
Alliance Mondiale pour une dentisterie sans mercure
Всемирный альянс за стоматологию без ртути
Alianza Mundial por una Odontología Sin Mercurio
التحالف العالمي لطب أسنان خال من الزئبق
世界无汞牙科联盟



Minamata Convention on mercury

The Minamata Convention on Mercury **is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.**

Mercury (Hg) is a chemical contaminant deposited by natural and anthropogenic sources. In aquatic systems, Hg is converted to the toxic methylmercury, which bioaccumulates and biomagnifies up food chains to concentrations harmful to human health when higher trophic level organisms are consumed.

Article 16 health aspects



This article was suggested by the GRULAC region. After long negotiations, was accepted. It is the only Convention that has an article on health.



GRULAC REGION moves towards mercury-free dentistry



Most of the countries from the GRULAC REGION have ratified the Minamata Convention

Dental amalgam in children and general population is very little used among private sector.

In the public sector is used, but parties are working to phase down the use of dental amalgam.

Samples from some countries

Argentina: Since 2009 the Province of Córdoba, has a Law No. 9,605, ordered the gradual elimination of the use of mercury.

In July 2018 began a campaign “Towards a mercury-free dentistry”, aims to eliminate the use of mercury in dental practices, in public health centres and professionals.

Bolivia, last September the Ministry of Health and Environment, under a law, banned the use of dental amalgam.

Chile, has an excellent oral programme for children since many years, aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, very little indeed of mercury is used, mainly under exceptional clinical circumstances.

Panama, the Ministry of Health, since many years has been working on the elimination of the use of dental amalgams among public sector. The country has already developed a regulation to do so.

Honduras, since 2017 the two biggest hospitals are not buying any mercury added product, including dental amalgam.

Suriname, banned the use mercury amalgam. Nowadays, under (5%) of dental amalgam is used.

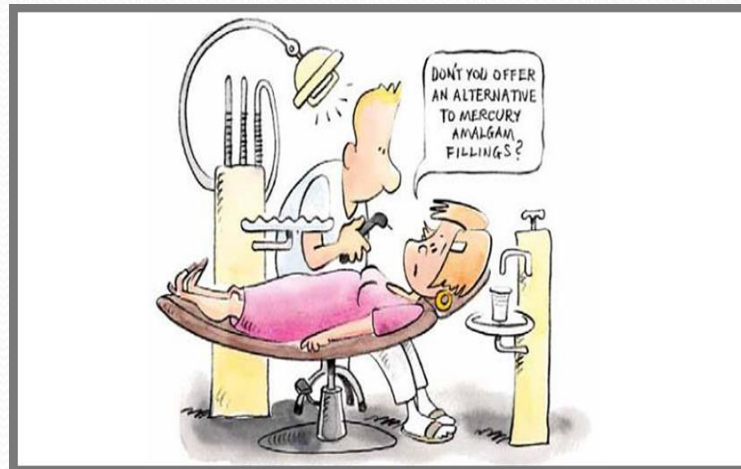
St Kitts and Nevis, last year announced phasing out the use of dental amalgam.

Uruguay, in 2005 set a national school programme aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, and very little mercury is used.

Since 2007 the Dentistry School from the Universidad de la República, teaches the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives.

Why no more dental amalgam

- Acute or chronic mercury exposure can cause adverse effects during any period of development.
- Mercury is a highly toxic element; there is no known safe level of exposure.
- Neither children nor adults should have any mercury in their bodies because it provides no physiological benefit.
- Prevention is the key to reducing mercury poisoning.





**For the good of our planet, for
our future generations, it is time
to take actions and make dental
amalgam history**

Thank you

