

EXPERIENCE ON PHASE OUT ALMAGAM IN CBC HEALTH SERVICES DENTAL PRACTICE

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CREPD

PLAN

- OBJECTIVES
- AMALGAM USE IN CBC HEALTH SERVICES
- PHASE DOWN AMALGAM
- DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED
- SUCCESS STORY
- IMPACT
- STRATEGIES TO ENCOURAGE PHASE DOWN AMALGAM IN CAMEROON

OBJECTIVES

- SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE IN PHASE OUT AMALGAM
- ENCOURAGE PHASE DOWN AND EVENTUALLY PHASE OUT AMALGAM IN DENTAL PRACTICE

CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION (CBC)HEALTH SERVICES

- Leading private and faith-based healthcare organization in Cameroon, Central Africa
- Provides up to 40% of health delivery in 7 out of 10 regions of Cameroon.
- Network of 10 dental clinics and provided oral care to approximately 47,000 patients in 2016.

AMALGAM USE IN CBC HEALTH SERVICES

- CBCHS was the first institution in Cameroon to make the pioneering decision to stop amalgam use.
- It started mercury-free dentistry in 2005 at Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital in Yaoundé.
- In 2007, the decision was fully implemented in all dental clinics throughout the CBCHS.

AMALGAM USE IN CBC HEALTH SERVICES

- Dental Amalgam an alloy containing mercury.
- one of the most commonly used materials restorative dentistry over the years.
- Learnt about the toxicity of Amalgam while in school some two decades ago.
- Had worked with amalgam for more than a decade.



AMALGAM USE IN CBC HEALTH SERVICES

- PROCEDURE:
- Started with the measuring of powder with a spoon and dropping mercury from a pipette
- Then advanced to using capsules but dropping mercury.
- Later on went to encapsulated powder and mercury.

MANAGEMENT OF EXCESS MERCURY :

- The mixed amalgam was put in a tissue
- Excess mercury was sequenced in a trash cans



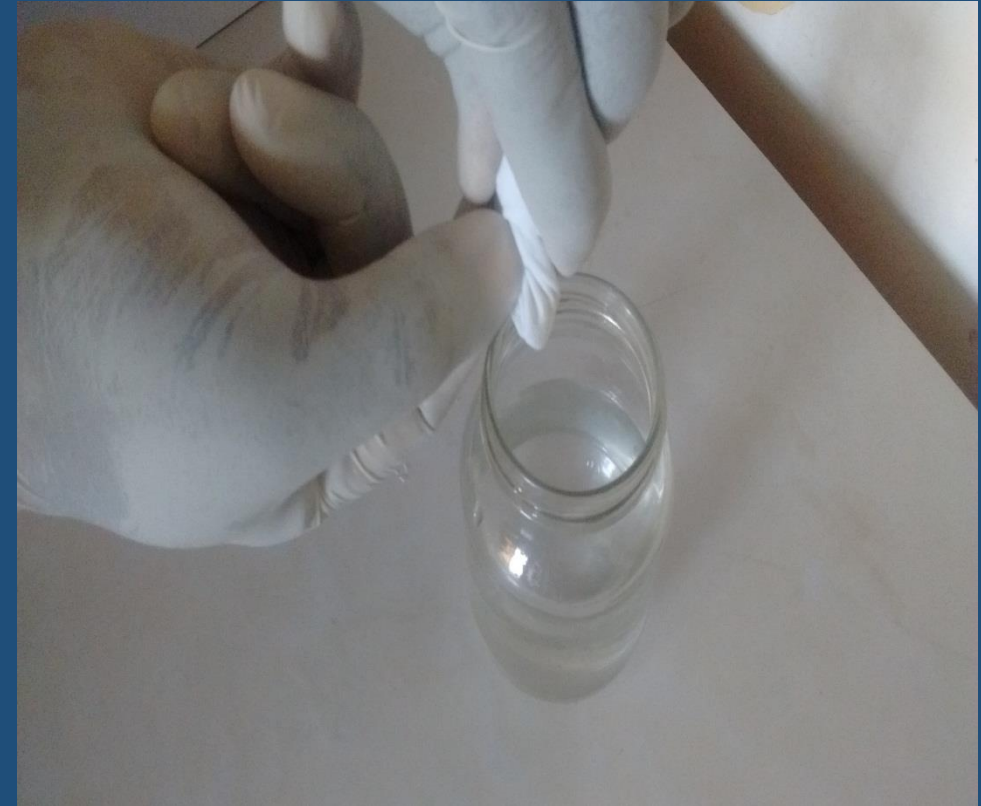
- Later on in bottles containing water that was emptied in the toilets

- Mercury balls were spread on the floor

which often broke down into smaller balls and

difficult and dangerous for the house keepers to take care .

Aspirators were used in the mouth



- We understood that amalgam waste management was not the best.
- This therefore called for more reading on it
- The fact that amalgam was very dangerous to dental personnel and equally that a patient with amalgam even after death still has the potential to contaminate the environment caught our extension very much.
- In 2005, we then started phasing down amalgam in our institution.
- Final phase out in 2007

HOW?

- Stopped the purchase
- Reduced use bit by bit
- Encouraged staff on use of alternatives as composites and glass ionomeres.
- Workshops or on-job trainings were organized and effected.

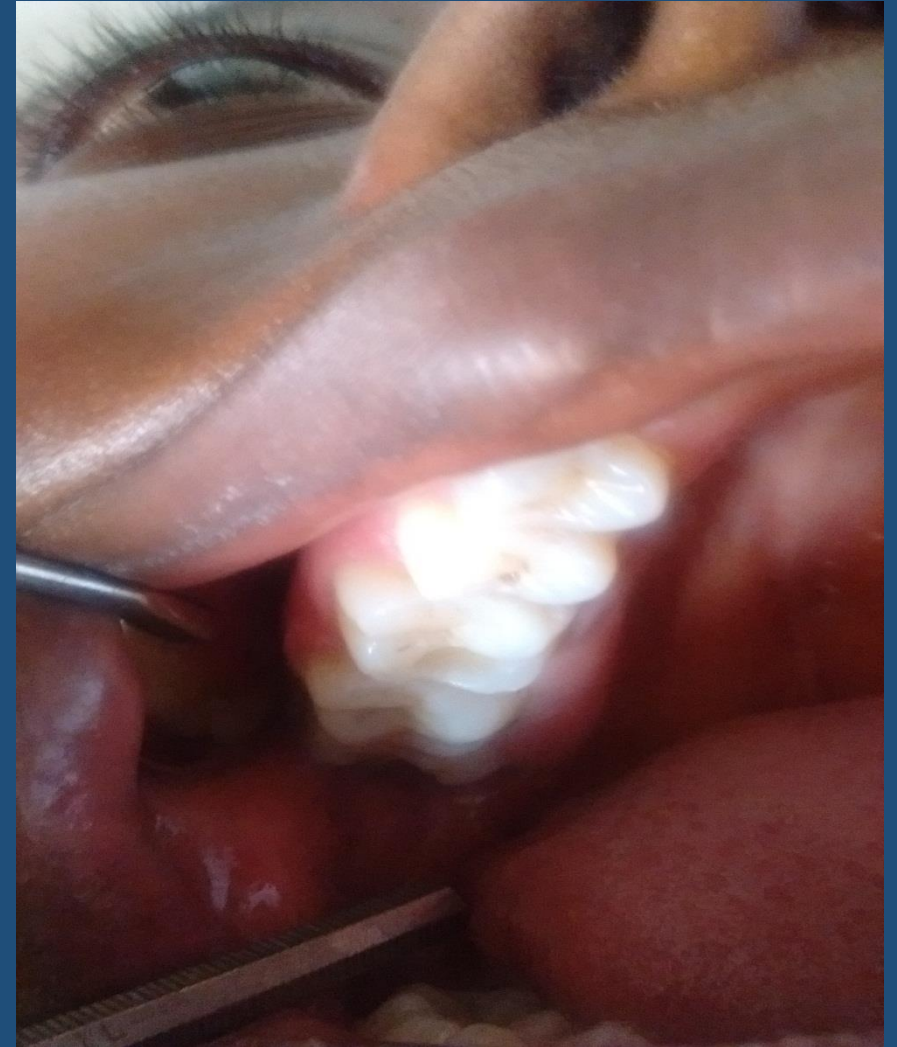
SOME DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- Change as usual was difficult for many staff needing education
- Failed fillings for lack of experience in using alternatives
- Retraction of some fillings
- Some clients were used to hard filings as amalgam needing education
- The cost could have been a problem but as a Faith based institution, all were done at the same price with the amalgam.

SUCCESS STORY

- FROM 2008, NO AMALGAM USE IN ETOUG-EBE BAPTIST HOSPITAL
- AND LATER ON IN ALL TEN CBC DENTAL CLINICS

EXAMPLES: 6 & 11 YEARS



IMPACT

- Improved oral health of patients
- Protection and safety of all workers
- Reduction in environmental pollution

STRATEGIES TO ENCOURAGE PHASE DOWN AMLGAM IN CAMEROON

- Work with the Dental Order on sensitization of Dental Practitioners on the toxicity of mercury in amalgam to humanity and environment with the necessity to phase it down,
- Sensitization of the community of Cameroon through media, social groups , schools, etc.

STRATEGIES TO ENCOURAGE PHASE DOWN AMALGAM IN CAMEROON

- Work with Dental Suppliers on alternatives to amalgam,
- Work together with dental Faculties on their curricula focusing more on the alternatives.
- Encourage the use of separators and encapsulated amalgam for those still having amalgam in their clinics or when removing old amalgam filling.
- Encourage phase down/phase out regulation by the Ministry of Public Health with end of amalgam use for pregnant women and milky teeth in 2020; and total phase out for all in 2025.

THANK YOU