



Paedodontic Society of South Africa

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Questionnaire

Please fill this questionnaire in and fax or e-mail it, to:

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Article: The Status of Amalgams in Pediatric Dentistry - Pros and Cons

1. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. The potential toxicity of mercury, inhaled or ingested, is the main concern regarding the use of dental amalgam.
- B. Dental procedures such as bleaching do not have any effect on the release of mercury from amalgam.
- C. Mercury does not pass from mother to fetus and is not detected in the milk.
- D. Animal and human studies have not demonstrated any association between amalgam fillings and birth defects.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A and D are true
- d. A, B, and D are true
- e. Only B is true

2. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. The use of silver/tin alloy capsules and mercury has considerably reduced the risk of inhalation during mixing.
- B. The daily dose of mercury from dental fillings produced by chewing is about the same as the threshold for hazard to health from air / mercury exposure.
- C. The usual routes for excretion (after placement of restorations) are feces or urine.
- D. The copper-tin matrix decreases the corrosion of tin, preventing secondary weakening with subsequent fracture of the restoration.
- E. Amalgam is the only restorative material existing nowadays in which the marginal seal improves with age.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A, C, D and E are true

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- d. C, and D are true
- e. B, C, and E are true

3. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. True allergies to amalgam are rare.
- B. Major reviews on the risk of dental amalgams in both the United States and the United Kingdom conclude, “over the years amalgam has been used for dental restorations without evidence of major health problems”.
- C. Dodes reported that the anti-amalgam literature is compelling.
- D. In Sweden, the original ban on amalgam use was for environmental reasons and has now been lifted.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A and D are true
- d. A, B, and D are true
- e. Only B is true

4. The use of mercury in dentistry accounts for ___% of the total amount used on a worldwide basis.

- a. 0.3%
- b. 3%
- c. 30%
- d. 60%
- e. 90%

5. Amalgam is the restoration of choice in

- A. A minimal Class I preparation.
- B. Relatively small Class II restoration.
- C. Class II restorations, when the proximal outline flares buccally and lingually.
- D. 3 surface restorations. (MOD)
- E. pulpotomized primary teeth.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A, B and E are true
- d. C and D are true
- e. Only B is true

6. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. Amalgam is less technique sensitive and more operator friendly than other restorative materials.
- B. Moisture contamination has no effect on amalgams.
- C. The use of rubber dam is unnecessary when working with amalgam.
- D. Lavelle concluded that operator skill was the greatest factor in determining the durability of the restorations.
- E. Stainless steel crowns are preferable to amalgam, when there is poor parent compliance and the lack of long term follow-up.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. Only D is true
- d. A, C and D is true
- e. A, D and E are true

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7. Which of the following factors contribute to patient caries risk

- A. High salivary mutans streptococci (SMS) count.
- B. Low fluoride availability.
- C. High dietary sucrose intake.
- D. Poor oral hygiene.
- E. Reduced salivary flow.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A, B and C are true
- d. A, B, C and E
- e. Only A is true

8. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. Salivary flow has no effect on the amount of plaque in the mouth.
- B. Chewing sugarless gum will generate stimulated saliva.
- C. Stimulated bacteria offers more buffering protection than nonstimulated saliva.
- D. Mastication is the main stimulant.
- E. Chewing sugarless gum can help prevent caries.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. B, C, D and E is true
- d. D and E are true
- e. Only B is true

9. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. The age of the patient has no effect on the longevity of the restoration.
- B. Restorations placed in second primary molars have a shorter survival time than other teeth.
- C. According to Elderton the cure for caries lies in 'changing lifestyles and treatment with topical agents'.
- D. The presence of orthodontic bands and brackets, may favour the accumulation of bacteria with cariogenic potential.
- E. The main source of salivary bacteria is the oral soft tissues.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A and B are true
- d. C, D and E are true
- e. Only E is true

10. Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. Compomers and other esthetic materials are always superior to amalgam.
- B. Stainless steel crowns are always superior to amalgam.
- C. Children under the age of 4 years should not have amalgams.
- D. The use of amalgam is banned in Sweden.
- E. Amalgams are contra indicated in Class I and Class II cavity preparations.

- a. All are true
- b. All are false
- c. A, B, and C are true
- d. Only B is true
- e. D and E are true