Dental amalgam has been regarded as safe

Yoshiyasu Takefuji

Noelle E. Selin wrote an article entitled "A proposed global metric to aid mercury pollution policy" (1). Dental amalgam has been used for filling cavities in dentistry for many years. Dental amalgam is a liquid mercury and metal alloy mixture with made of silver, tin, and copper solid particles. Dental amalgam toxicity has been investigated by reliable research institutes including US FDA (Food and Drug Administration) (2), European Commission (3), and American Dental Association (4). They have concluded that the dental amalgam is regarded as safe (2, 3, 4). It is important to determine what mercury products should be purged from the market for protecting human health and the environment. It is a stupid mercury pollution policy to remove all mercury products. According to the data by United Nations Environment Programme (5), a large part of produced mercury has been used in artisanal gold mining which has been seriously causing mercury pollution. Mercury pollution policy should be prioritized for effectively alleviating mercury pollution.

References:

- Noelle E. Selin, A proposed global metric to aid mercury pollution policy, Science
 May 2018: Vol. 360, Issue 6389, pp. 607-609
- 2. https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/DentalProducts/DentalAmalgam/ucm171094.htm
- 3. https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/public_consultations/scenihr_consultation_24_en
- 4. https://www.ada.org/en/press-room/press-kits/dental-fillings-press-kit/dental-amalgam-what-others-say
- 5. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21725/global_mercury.pd f?sequence=1&