



स्वास्थ्य एवं
परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
सत्यमेव जयते



INDIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION'S DENTAL AMALGAM PHASING DOWN WORKSHOP WITH GOI, WHO-INDIA AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF INDIA

Dental Amalgam Phasing Down Workshop conducted at IDA Head Office, 11th Feb 2023 inaugurated and addressed by Chief Guest – Dr. L Swasticharan (Addl Deputy Director General of Health Services, MoHFW, GOI) and Guest of Honours Mr. N Subramanyam (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) and Dr D Gopalakrishnan (Dean, DY Patil Dental College & Hospital, Pune).

Dental Amalgam is a frequently used restorative material in dentistry. Mercury is in the top 10 of chemicals of major public health concern according to the World Health Organization.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is the most recent global agreement on environment and health, adopted in 2013. The Minamata Convention on Mercury went into effect on August 16, 2017, aiming to safeguard the environment and human health against anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury-related compounds. The ecology is harmed by mercury contamination, and mercury poisoning which produces long- term, and occasionally permanent, neurological damage in people. Dental amalgam, a direct restorative material alloy with a mercury content of 50%, is one of the goods with mercury added that are addressed in Article 4 of the Convention, primarily used in dental restorations.

Indian Dental Association supports the World Health Organisation's and Government of India's approach to help highlight the amalgam and mercury toxicity waste while putting timely focus on the amalgam phasing down strategies.

In Dentistry, amalgam is preferred by oral health professionals because it is thought to be simple to handle, durable, well-known, and prioritised in dental school. Old practitioners and clinicians who did not want to alter their long-standing procedures due to the familiarity finds it particularly difficult to move to amalgam alternatives.

In IDA's recent collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, World Health Organisation – India, Dental Council of India and national societies - Indian Association of Public Health Dentistry and dental institutes highlighted the issue of mercury toxicity affecting health and environment.

Dental Amalgam Phasing Down workshop followed sequential delegation from the key stakeholders of the country - Dr L Swasticharan (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI), Mr. N Subramanyam (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), Dr Ashu Gupta (Dental Council of India committee member), Mr Manjeet Singh Saluja (World Health Organisation – India), Dr Vamsi Reddy (Hon. Secretary, Indian Association of Public Health Dentistry), Dr D Gopalakrishnan (Dean, DY Patil Dental College & Hospital, Pune), Dr Ashish Jain (HOD Conservative Dentistry, Bharati Vidyapeeth

Dental College & Hospital), Mr Satish Sinha (Associate Director, Toxics Link), IDA office bearer - Dr Ashok Dhoble (Hon. Secretary General, IDA), Dr Puneet Girdhar (President, IDA), Dr Rajiv Chugh (President Elect, IDA), Dr Deepak Mucchala (Hon. Treasurer, IDA) and Dr Raju Biswas (Committee Member, IDA).

The key objectives of this workshop were: To highlight details of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to understand and aid in upgrading the existing policies and regulation on Dental Amalgam use, outline health and environment impacts of Dental Amalgam and formulate a white paper to address future action plan for use of dental amalgam in dentistry.

An immediate outcome of the workshop was releasing a Declaration document on Dental Amalgam Phasing Out. This document was supported by all major stakeholders in the workshop post a panel discussion.

The workshop was attended by departmental heads, teachers, postgraduate students and interns from the dental colleges of Mumbai.



IDA CALLS FOR PHASING OUT DENTAL AMALGAM

DECLARATION ON MERCURY FREE ORAL HEALTH CARE

The Indian Dental Association (IDA) declares that; we dental professionals take responsibility for the environmental impacts of our work and contribute as individuals and as an association to the global objectives to ultimately end the use of dental amalgam.

We also appreciate efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for efforts towards eliminating the use of mercury.

We realize that Mercury is a toxicant which poses an immediate threat to both dental professionals and patients, and is a threat to community health and the environment.

We understand that oral healthcare adds to this threat whilst adhering to best practice and environmentally sound management of waste when removing old amalgam fillings, we will offer proven, safe, effective and alternative mercury-free restorative alternatives to all patients who require new fillings.

We will strengthen capacities and raise awareness to promote oral health and disease prevention. Professional institutions and dental colleges will look ahead towards a mercury-free future. IDA shall work to develop networks and working groups for mercury-free alternatives. Dental professionals and students will be trained on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives. We shall advocate for updating of dental college curriculum to promote mercury-free dentistry.

We will contribute and support to research both private and public for mercury-free restorative materials which are affordable, biocompatible, clinically effective, user-friendly, and environmentally sound. Dental practitioners, with their experience, will further contribute to research on mercury-free and safer materials.

We will advocate for the protection of 'patients and workers' environmental and occupational health by the promotion of the necessary infrastructure and standards by governments to adequately manage and dispose mercury waste, including procedures for handling segregation, collection, storage and disposal.

We will promote the development of an industry that produces affordable, accurate and reliable mercury free medical devices, and the establishment of national standards and certification for such devices.

IDA and our member dental professionals will work together towards achieving the aspirations of this declaration and help India transition to a mercury-free environment by stopping using amalgam – as we all strive to have a healthier tomorrow and protect our planet for future generations.

Dr. Puneet Girdhar
President
Indian Dental Association

Dr. Rajiv Chugh
President Elect
Indian Dental Association

Dr. Ashok Dhoble
Hon. Secretary General
Indian Dental Association

Workshop Highlights









