

Talking Points: FDA Recommendations on Dental Amalgam 2020
September 24, 2020

- The ADA reaffirms [its position](#) that dental amalgam is a durable, safe and effective cavity-filling option.
- The ADA strongly supports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) statement that all restorative decisions should be made by the patient and the dentist.
- The ADA also supports the FDA statement that the existing evidence shows that dental amalgam is not harmful to the general population.
- According to the FDA, and the ADA agrees, "If you need a filling, discuss all treatment options with your dental provider, including the benefits and risks of using dental amalgam and other dental restorative materials, to help you make an informed decision."
- While the FDA cites certain groups that may be at greater risk for potential negative effects from exposure to mercury, the agency states that "little to no information" is known about the effects dental amalgam may have on these specific groups.
- There was no new scientific evidence cited as part of the FDA recommendation.
- People who might be concerned about dental amalgam because it contains mercury can be reassured that credible scientific studies show no cause for alarm and the latest FDA recommendations are not based on any new scientific evidence.
- The FDA **does not** recommend anyone remove or replace existing amalgam fillings in good condition unless it is considered medically necessary by a health care professional.
- Patients should consult with their dentists to decide which filling material is best for them based on a number of factors, such as size and location of the cavity, patient history, cosmetic concerns and cost.