

I understand that placing of silver amalgam fillings includes possible inherent risks. Furthermore, no promises or guarantees of results can be made or should be expected.

These risks include, but are not limited to the following:

1. **Mercury content:** Silver amalgam has been used for decades as a filling material for teeth. In recent years, however, some opponents to the material have asserted that there is a possibility, although unproven, that silver amalgam may have an effect on the general health of a person due to its mercury content. There are no scientific studies accepted by the American Dental Association which supports the belief and silver amalgam continues to be endorsed by the ADA as an acceptable filling material.
2. **The teeth treated may remain sensitive or even possibly quite painful both during and after completion of treatment.** If the pain is severe or extreme sensitivity persists for an extended period of time, please call the office for an examination.
3. **Numbness:** There may be numbness in the tongue, lips, teeth, jaws, and/or facial tissues resulting from the anesthetic administration used in the placement of the restorations or other treatment procedures. If this numbness persists for a period of time longer than 24 hours, please call the office.
4. **Fracture or breakage:** Should a tooth require a large amalgam filling because of the extent of the decay or for other reasons, there is a possibility of the filling breaking or loosening. It may then be required to place a crown in order to preserve the tooth. If the tooth structure retaining the filling breaks, it may also be necessary to crown the tooth in order to preserve it.
5. **Root canal or extraction:** Should the decay have invaded the tooth to the extent that even after it has been filled, it remains or becomes excessively painful, it may be necessary to either perform root canal treatment or possibly even extract the tooth.
6. **Fragility of silver amalgam:** Silver amalgam is quite fragile until it has completely solidified. It is necessary to avoid chewing on recently placed amalgam fillings for approximately 24 hours.
7. **Amalgam tattoos:** Occasionally shavings generated by placement or carving of silver amalgam fillings may work their way into the surrounding gum tissues and become lodged. Over an extended period of time gray spots may become visible within the mouth.

I understand that it is my responsibility to notify this office should any undue or unexpected problems occur or if I experience any problems relating to the treatment rendered or the services performed.

INFORMED CONSENT: I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the nature and purpose of silver amalgam fillings and have received answers to my satisfaction. I voluntarily assume any and all possible risks including, but not limited to, those listed above, including risk of substantial harm, if any, which may be associated with any phase of this treatment in hopes of obtaining the desired potential results, which may or may not be achieved. No promises or guarantees have been made to me concerning the results. The fee(s) for this service have been explained to me and are satisfactory. By signing this document, I freely give my consent to allow and authorize Dr. _____ and/or his/her associates or agents to render any treatment necessary and/or advisable to my dental conditions, including the administration and/or prescribing of any medications.

Patient's name (please print): _____

Signature of patient or legal representative: _____

Date: _____

Witness to signature: _____

Date: _____