**Press release**

European Commision issues new proposal for amalgam phase-out

**The amalgam ban is going ahead full throttle… What are the alternatives?**

**Dental amalgam is the largest remaining intentional use of mercury in Europe, estimated at around 40 t in 2019. The consequential environmental impact has been the main reason of a global phase down in the past decades.**

On 14 July, 2023,The European Council has made an official proposal to ban the use of amalgam for any dental treatment in its member states as of the 1st of January, 2025. The use of dental amalgam for children and pregnant or breastfeeding women, had already been banned in the EU since 2018, apart from a few strict exceptions. With this new legislation in sight, the need for alternative solutions is once again highlighted.

GC has anticipated an amalgam phase-out since many years. “Currently, there are several viable, mercury-free alternatives on the markets, but we need to ensure that all requirements are met, also from the patient’s perspective,” Bart Dopheide, General Manager Scientific Services at GC Europe stated. “Direct comparisons between EQUIA Forte glass hybrid restorations and composite restorations – composite being the new ‘gold standard’ for direct restorations’ - in independent academic cost-effectiveness studies encompassed initial as well as retreatment costs, and the conclusion was that glass hybrids had more potential in terms of cost-effectiveness. Such studies are very important considering the transition to alternatives to be covered by social security systems and private healthcare, to make oral healthcare affordable for everyone. On top of that, they are less technique-sensitive what makes their placement more comparable to amalgam.”

Three years ago, the management board of Foundation Nakao also initiated the “Restorative options decision tree” to support the amalgam phase-down by providing dentists with clear alternative options. “It comprises a consensus of experts to guide the selection of restorative materials,” Bart Dopheide continues. “All key aspects are considered, from mechanical and clinical properties to patient comfort and expectations. Tremendous advances in materials science have been made. Nowadays, we now even have very strong direct options for large restorations, such as fibre-reinforced composites (everX Flow, ed.). Even modern low-viscosity composites such as G-ænial Universal Injectable are now strong enough for these restorations, all contributing to the ease of placement.”

For more information about the most obvious amalgam alternatives from GC, visit <https://campaigns-gceurope.com/amalgam-alternative/>

**Sources:**

* [Proposal for a revision of the Mercury Regulation (europa.eu)](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-revision-mercury-regulation_en) https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-revision-mercury-regulation\_en
* Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury as regards dental amalgam and other mercury-added products subject to manufacturing, import and export restrictions [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0395](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0395)
* Schwendicke F, Basso M, Markovic D, Turkun LS, Miletić I. Long-term cost-effectiveness of glass hybrid versus composite in permanent molars. J Dent. 2021;11:103751. doi: 10.1016/j.jdent.2021.103751.
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* Restorative Options Decision Tree, Foundation Nakao. [zingtree.com/deploy/tree.php?z=embed&tree\_id=510390943](https://zingtree.com/deploy/tree.php?z=embed&tree_id=510390943)

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