

Phase DOWN vs phase UP

The European Union has decided to phase down the use of dental amalgam until the year 2030, and from 2018 its use shall be restricted in children and pregnant women. Irrespective of what is decided about amalgam, the 25-year-old discussion flares up again and again. Although the EU primarily follows the Minamata Convention of 2013 in order to reduce the global environmental burden of mercury, some journalists persist in digging up toxicological health issues. Thus, we have faced several interviews with major European journals in recent weeks.

What always is disregarded in these discussions is the fundamental difference between amalgam and bonded resin composites. And this is not toxicology – a zero-risk dental biomaterial simply does not exist – rather, it is the procedure of restoration preparation. Amalgam still means extension for prevention, while bonded resin-based composites are clearly minimally invasive. Therefore, the trend

in many countries is towards the latter restorations, primarily because they are tooth-colored and only a minimum of sound hard dental tissue has to be sacrificed.

Successful adhesion to dental tissue is the fundamental prerequisite for guaranteeing the clinical success of bonded resin composites. That's why the content of this journal is so important, also in the present seemingly never-ending amalgam discussion. In the end, the amalgam phase DOWN will be accomplished by the ongoing adhesive phase UP that we have promoted and accompanied for 25 years, 18 of those with the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*.



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