

Anti-Mercury Activists Target Dentists' Convention

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PHILADELPHIA — This week dentists from around the country are filing into Philadelphia for the 146th annual convention of the American Dental Association.

Needless, to say, dentists will be filling the hotspots around the city this weekend.

Ready to drill the dentists with picketing and protests as the convention center opens wide to the arrival of the ADA is the Pennsylvania Coalition for Mercury-Free Dentistry.

The coalition is dedicated to the elimination of the use of dental amalgam in fillings. Its objection is that the amalgam is a mercury based compound.

“Dental amalgam is the primary source of mercury exposure for the general population,” the coalition complains in a press release advertising its 8 a.m. protest at the convention center Friday. The picketing will be followed by a City Hall press conference.

Among the speakers at the press conference will be Philadelphia City Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, consumer advocates, a past president of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, a physician billed as an expert on the relationship between autism and mercury, and Arthur Stamoulis, director of government affairs for the Clean Air

Council. These mercury-free filling advocates argue amalgam fillings give people significant daily exposure to mercury through the vaporization of the highly toxic element.

The advocates believe the amalgam also conducts electrical currents that draw mercury into different areas of the body. Mercury is particularly harmful to pregnant women and children and, they declare, collects in the brain, hormone glands and major organs. It is particularly toxic on a cellular level and can destroy the immune system, they claim.

Mercury has been identified as causing more than 40 serious or chronic health conditions including neurological, hormonal, reproductive, immune, autoimmune, cardiovascular, birth defects and developmental effects.

The coalition says the removal of amalgam fillings can relieve symptoms of many diseases from immune system dysfunctions, allergies, and sinus problems to lupus, infertility, depression, autism schizophrenia and ADD.

The ADA argues there is no scientific evidence the amalgam causes any medical problems.

“Based on hundreds of sound, scientific studies, The American Dental Association (ADA) reaffirms its position that dental amalgam is one of several safe, effective materials to fill cavities,” the ADA says.