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Ms N Dorries MP
House of Commons
London
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26th May 2008

Dear Madam,

Further to my telephone conversation with your secretary on 23rd May 2008
Re – Mercury Poisoning

I am writing to you to explain exactly what happened to me.

From late 2006 I embarked on a course of dental treatment on the NHS with Peter Litchfield of The Cranfield Dental Practice, Beds. This involved (unbeknown to me) drilling out old mercury amalgam fillings in order to fit some bridges. Amalgam fillings contain 50-57% mercury, which is the most poisonous metal known to man after plutonium.

This dental work carried on through to April 2007, when on my last appointment at the dental practice the dentist was drilling away at my teeth and my mouth filled up with waste as he did not have a dental nurse in the surgery sucking the waste from my mouth, and before I had a chance to spit the waste out, I swallowed half the stuff.

When I spat I noticed that all this gunk was old mercury amalgam fillings dust and debris. This made me worried straight away as I had heard that this could be dangerous if ingested.

In May/June 07 I started to feel very unwell – A lump in my throat, fast heart beat and general anxiety symptoms, this has now got progressively worse and I now suffer from shaking muscles when moving any muscle group in my body. On top of this I do not sleep, my arms and legs are so weak that I am no longer able to work also my head is continuously ‘spaced out’. I have a constant ringing in my ears, my extremities are always cold and I have a continual dry mouth, I am finding it very difficult just to function.

My GP has sent me for so many tests, and they have all come back negative. The problem with mercury poisoning there is no hard and fast test to prove it, as mercury does not stay in the blood stream for longer than approximately six hours, but instead stores itself in the fatty tissues (i.e – brain, liver, kidneys etc). This makes it very difficult to test for.

I have been in touch with a mercury helpline run by a lady called Pam Clayton from Irthlingborough, Northants who herself was poisoned, and she has told me that this problem is widespread and that a lot of people she has met have also suffered similar symptoms.

I have seen three private Drs. who have seen many cases of this and they all agree I have mercury poisoning.

Before all this happened I was a VERY FIT 53 year old that went cycling, running and swimming regularly I also held down a very physical job as a builder.

Bearing in mind what I have just written, I will now explain to you exactly where the BDA stand on this.

They say that mercury in the mouth is safe and yet state that if any material is left over from fillings it has to be treated as toxic waste.

Two years ago they advised all dentists that they were to have a special filter fitted to their spit sinks to stop any mercury going down the drains into the national water system, on top of this they also state that pregnant women should not have mercury amalgam fillings, and great care should be taken by dentists not to breathe any vapour in from mercury when they carry out fillings.

I have spoken to three other local dentists in Bedford, two NHS and one private and they all say that when placing fillings or drilling them out, you should take great care because of the vapour that is given off.

I feel my dentist has acted completely irresponsibly towards me, in allowing me to swallow this mercury, by not having a dental nurse in attendance whilst this dental work was carried out.

The BDA also advise dentists to use a rubber dam on patients mouths, which is to stop mercury being swallowed or inhaled, but this is not compulsory.

As my MP I feel that I would like you to look into this further, as I believe it to be quite a large problem in this country with many people suffering and not getting proper help because the Health service do not recognise mercury as being a problem and yet many other countries have banned this metal for use in fillings.

You only have to look on the internet to see how wide spread amalgam poisoning is.

I feel very strongly that something has got to be done about this problem as now I am not working, I can not claim any sickness benefit because I was self-employed and we now live of my wife's earnings and our life savings. Our lives have been completely ruined by this dentist and this material must stop being used in dentistry.

I have been in touch with 'Bedford on Sunday' newspaper (Simon Hutchinson) and he advised me they have already done two stories on amalgam poisoning, one regarding fillings being removed from corpses (about to be cremated) because of the fear of mercury vapour going into the atmosphere.

I believe this is a very big problem worldwide and needs to be addressed forthwith, So that sufferers can get the proper medical help they need and deserve.

I look forward to your reply

Yours Sincerely

Mr Dudley Smith