

Appendix A - Criteria for identification of relevant studies provided by the FDA Associate Commissioner for Science

Includes evidence from:

- Peer reviewed publications
- Well-controlled investigations
- Epidemiological studies that are relevant and include adequate and appropriate control population

For purposes of this review, information reviewed was limited to the following:

- Human studies of mercury vapor, inorganic mercury, or dental amalgam
- Animal studies evaluating mercury vapor or inorganic mercury exposures (including amalgam)

Does not include evidence from:

- Isolated case reports
- Random experience
- Studies and objective trials without matched controls
- Case histories
- Reports lacking sufficient details to permit scientific evaluation
- Letters, comments, news articles, editorials, other non-peer reviewed documents
- Unsubstantiated opinions
- Evidence unrelated to device (dental amalgam)
- Reference not found

For purposes of this review, studies with primary focus on the following were not reviewed:

- Dental or material properties of dental amalgam
- Comparisons of alternative replacement materials vs. dental amalgam
- Environmental consequences of dental amalgam disposal
- Organic mercury, e.g., methyl mercury and ethyl mercury
- In vitro studies

Amount and type of valid scientific evidence required:

- Sufficient to permit qualified experts to accurately estimate dose-response, exposure, or risk of health effects from inorganic or metallic mercury for the device under its conditions of use.
- Evidence required may vary according to the characteristics of the device, its conditions of use, the existence and adequacy of warnings and other restrictions, and the extent of experience with its use