Good Advice

Dental Fillings Can Lead to Health Issues (Part 2)

by Dr. Linda Golden



Parents may be particularly interested to know that one of the composite filling's ingredients, bisphenol A, commonly known as

BPA, has drawn scrutiny in recent years

because of its ability to act as an estrogen in animal lab studies. Thanks to its ubiquity in canned foods, sodas, and common plastics, the chemical courses through the bloodstreams of 93 percent of Americans children and adults alike

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. BPA remains a common additive in both dental fillings and dental sealants, according to the American Dental Association. Through a statement on its website, the organization maintains that BPA used in dentistry is safe, and that a child is exposed to it on a limited basis during the filling procedure itself. But few studies have examined how much BPA may be breaking down from the filling material over time.

So what's a patient to do? Is it time to rip out the composites and embrace the

> 140-year-old technology of metal fillings all over again? After all, those last longer-up to 30 years. NO! NO! NO!

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