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Although silver fillings have been the standard for dental restorations since the 19th century, their place in dentistry are coming to an end. For the past four years my practice has been utilizing the composite (white) restorations almost exclusively. Currently, I do not feel the silver fillings are the standard any longer. Besides the fact that composite restorations are superior esthetically, they have other qualities that surpass silver restorations such as:

1. Composite is less sensitive to the restored tooth than silver. Since changing to composite fillings, patients rarely complain of cold or chewing sensitivity.
2. Composite is smoother than the rough surface texture of silver.
3. The composite restoration bonds to the tooth for improved strength. The silver restoration only “plugs” the hole. This plug may cause a wedge effect resulting in the tooth splitting or breaking more frequently. Obviously this results in more expensive and extensive restorations or crowns to be placed on the tooth.
4. A composite restoration has the ability in some cases to bond new composite to the existing composite when a portion of the tooth breaks out. Removing the entire restoration is necessary when silver is the restorative material.
5. The composite has no mercury. The silver has mercury. This is a major health concern for many patients with the linking of mercury to several diseases.

Many insurance companies lag behind in current advancements with dentistry. They will pay for their portion of the composite restoration at the same rate they reimburse for a silver restoration. The remaining portion of the composite fee is the responsibility of the patient. Although there will be some additional cost to you for a composite restoration, I feel its advantages out weigh the extra cost. _____ (Initials)

My entire staff has witnessed the positive results from composite restoration our patients have experienced and enjoyed. We whole-heartedly recommend the composite restorations.

Signature-Patient, parent, or legal guardian

Date