

~~Informational copy to dentists of letter I sent to patients.~~

Important Notice

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Dear Patients,

As many of you may have seen, recently the media has been reporting stories regarding lead found in dental restorations here in Columbus. The magnitude of the problem became known to me this summer when I was fortunate enough to interview a highly informed and influential dentist, Dr. Gordon Christensen, who is the founder of Clinical Research Associates (CRA). CRA is the equivalent of Consumer Reports in dentistry. The interview revealed that 25% of the dental restorations (porcelain crowns, inlays, and many other types) in the United States were being fabricated in China; I was shocked that Chinese laboratories would be trusted to this degree. This is especially surprising in light of all the negative publicity Chinese manufacturing is receiving.

In the past 6 months several laboratory owners have told me that they thought the number was closer to 50%. The attraction is price. I have seen an ad from a Chinese laboratory that offered to make dental crowns for \$29 (this even included shipping). The offer was made to laboratory technicians who were also laboratory owners, and emphasized the savings in their labor costs over those here in the United States. Naturally, that is attractive to them.

The point of this letter is to reassure you that 100% of the dental restorations we use are made on site in the laboratory on the lower level of my office. I pay the technician, I buy the materials, own the equipment, and most importantly, I oversee the fabrication of all crowns from start to finish. I have had my own dental laboratory for my exclusive use since 1978. I created the dental laboratory to assure quality restorations for my patients. If there is a problem, I am never more than 20 steps away from the technician. Commercial dental laboratories vary so greatly in quality it is impossible to know who did the work or how the restoration was fabricated. My assurance to you is that I will always work hard to maintain the quality of my dental restorations. I only use metal with high noble content (made in Buffalo, NY) and materials that are the best available for the restorations.

I learned early on if I wanted quality, I would have to pay for quality. I never paid per crown, which is the norm. I paid the technician and told him or her to do their very best work. It has worked well for our patients.

Today with the price of gold over \$950 per ounce, the metal alone in our restorations can have significant value. A substitute for gold is nickel, but over 35% of women and a growing number of men are allergic to nickel. Nearly all "cheap restorations" use nickel as their base. Lead has even higher health risks. I have seen tissue change back to normal color after the removal of nickel containing alloys and the bleeding stops. Patients have said that they feel better. One person even said that they had had a chronically sore throat for years that went away. Others have said their allergies have improved.

If you would like a tour of my dental laboratory during your next dental visit, please ask. I am very proud of the facility and my technical staff.

I have included an information sheet I sent recently to my referring dentists on our new milling machine. It uses Zirconia, which is not metal based. However, the material is very strong and beautiful. I thought you might enjoy the information. I publish a newsletter that goes out to 1300 central Ohio dentists four times per year. If you would like more technical information, it is available on my website in PDF format www.ColumbusDentistry.com.

Please feel free to contact my staff or me directly if you have any concerns.

Thank you for reading,

Dr. Metz