

# DENTAL MATERIALS FACT SHEET

|  | <b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b>  | <b>PRINCIPAL USES</b>  | <b>COST</b>  | <b>DURABILITY</b>                                       | <b>APPEARANCE</b>  | <b>PATIENT TOLERANCE</b>  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>PORCELAIN and similar materials</b> | Porcelain, ceramics and glass - like materials.                     | <b>CROWNS (caps) AND VENEERS</b>   | <b>HIGH</b><br>Requires at least 2 visits and laboratory services. | <b>VARIES</b><br>May fracture under heavy biting loads. | <b>EXCELLENT</b><br>Looks like the tooth.                                  | <b>Well tolerated.</b>  |
| <b>METALS</b>                          | Alloys of gold or other metals.                                     | <b>CROWNS AND BRIDGES</b><br>Also used for partial dentures.               | <b>HIGH</b><br>Requires at least 2 visits and laboratory services. | <b>EXCELLENT</b><br>Very strong and durable.            | <b>POOR</b><br>Looks like the metal used.                                  | <b>Gold alloys are well tolerated.</b><br>Very low sensitivity.<br>Other metals sometime cause allergies. |
| <b>PORCELAIN FUSED TO METAL</b>        | Porcelain fused to an underlying metal to add strength.             | <b>CROWNS (caps) and BRIDGES</b>   | <b>HIGH</b><br>Requires at least 2 visits and laboratory services. | <b>EXCELLENT</b><br>Very strong and durable.            | <b>VERY GOOD</b><br>Does not quite have the translucency of natural teeth. | <b>Gold alloys are well tolerated.</b><br>Very low sensitivity.<br>Other metals sometime cause allergies. |
| <b>AMALGAM (Silver Filling)</b>        | Mixture of mercury and silver alloy powder forming a solid filling. | <b>FILLINGS</b><br>Especially where not easily seen and the bite is heavy. | <b>LOW</b>   | <b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT</b>                                | <b>POOR</b><br>Has a silver or blackened silver color..                    | <b>Well tolerated.</b><br><br>Very low sensitivity.   |
| <b>COMPOSITE</b>                       | Mixture of glass filler and acrylic.                                | <b>FILLINGS</b><br>Which are easily seen.                                  | <b>MODERATE TO HIGH</b>  | <b>FAIR</b><br>If filling is small or average size.     | <b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT</b><br>Looks like the tooth but tends to stain.       | <b>Well tolerated.</b><br><br>Very Low sensitivity.   |

\* Please see the US Food and Drug Administrations (FDA) February 2002 “Consumer Update on Dental Amalgam”, available on the FDA web site <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/consumer/amalgams.html>.

\* Also, the “Review and Analysis of the Literature on the Potential Adverse Health Effects of Dental Amalgam”, published by the Life Sciences Research Office, Inc. (LSRO). This report was requested by the major U.S. health institutions. It involved the assessment of 950 scientific and medical studies relating to dental amalgam published between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2003. To receive a copy, call Donna Krupa at (703)527-7357 or [djkrupa1@aol.com](mailto:djkrupa1@aol.com).