

BPA IN DENTAL COMPOSITES

There is some concern about the presence of BPA in dental composites and sealants.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is BPA?*

BPA or Bisphenol A is a synthetic compound used in many consumer plastic products and food packaging. Some studies indicate possible adverse health effects of BPA due to its potential estrogenicity.

2. *Do dental composites contain BPA?*

Although BPA is not directly used to manufacture dental composites, trace amounts of BPA are released into the saliva due to degradation of the material in the saliva. However, there is no detectable concentration in the bloodstream after placement.

3. *Are the dental composites and sealants safe?*

The studies show that the trace amounts of BPA in the saliva within 1 hour after placement is 500,000 times lower than the EPA acceptable daily exposure limit for adult humans and that no BPA was detected in the bloodstream. Consequently, human exposure to BPA from dental resins pose no known health risk.

Despite the results of the studies and the absence of documented adverse health risks in humans, some recommend precautions when treating pregnant women and young children.

The dental material manufacturers have been pro-active with this issue as there are lower BPA degradation levels today than there were 10 years ago. Most current dental sealants are now "BPA-free".

Research is continuing on newer materials as well as monitoring for any health risks.