



the art and science of smart patch testing™

DM 233: Amalgam alloying metals

Patient Information

Your patch test results indicate that you have a contact allergy to amalgam. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching, and fluid-filled blisters.

Where are amalgam alloying metals found?

In this context amalgam means dental amalgam. In dentistry amalgam is used as a restorative filling material. This test preparation contains silver (Ag), copper (Cu), tin (Sn), and zinc (Zn). When mixed with mercury (Hg), the above metals produce dental amalgam. The amalgam alloying metals preparation used for patch testing does not contain mercury.

How can you avoid contact with amalgam alloying metals?

Avoid products that list the following in the ingredients:

- Silver
- Copper
- Tin
- Zinc

What are some products that may contain amalgam alloying metals?

Dental fillings

For additional information about products that might contain **amalgam alloying metals**, go to the Household Product Database online (<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.