



## On the Fly.....

### Important Announcement

Issue 5 - February 2008

Please read below this important announcement received from the National Association of Dental Laboratories on a documented dental restoration containing lead. If the local media does pick up the story outlined below or you are contacted by any of your patients who have seen, read or heard of the story please be assured, and now notified, that Ragle Dental Laboratory does not send anything offshore. All restorations are fabricated onsite except for partial frames which are fabricated for us at Bertram Dental Lab located in Appleton, WI as they have been for almost 27 years. Many laboratories in the US do use an offshore lab to control costs. Any laboratory that is sending work offshore must provide you with a port of origin and be registered with the FDA. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to give me a call. We will keep you informed as the story develops and when further information is received.

Jerry Ragle, CDT



### Documented Cases of Lead Contamination in Off Shore Dental Laboratory Restorations

Feb. 26, 2008

Recently, NADL was contacted by a dental patient in Ohio who has documentation of lead contamination in her dental restoration. The affected patient, a senior citizen, received a three-unit dental bridge from a dentist in Ohio. After having an adverse reaction to her dental work, and having it removed, the dentist disclosed that the prescription was sent to an offshore dental laboratory and disclosed to the patient that the restoration was made in China. The patient then had the restoration sent to a chemical laboratory for analysis. The documentation of the dental material analysis of this patient's restoration showed unsafe levels of lead in the porcelain on the restoration.

This case has attracted the attention of an Ohio television reporter who was already working on a story about offshore dental laboratory work. As part of the reporter's investigative research for the story, the TV station ordered a series of crowns from several offshore dental laboratories. One of those restorations contained 210 parts per million of lead in the materials. The U.S. Congress, in response to the toy recalls in 2007, lowered the acceptable levels of lead in toys to 90 parts per million.

The testing of these restorations for the reporter's investigation was conducted by a chemical research laboratory in Ohio and, at the suggestion of NADL, at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine. In addition to the documentation of lead, the chemical analysis revealed the restoration contains traces of radioactive isotopes.

The reporter contacted NADL and interviewed co-executive director, Bennett Napier, CAE, for this story. Others interviewed include the attorney for the patient in Ohio; a lead expert; a spokesperson from the Ohio Dental Board, a Columbus dentist and laboratory owners from central Ohio. The TV report contains position statements or quotes from the American Dental Association and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

WBNS 10 TV in Columbus, Ohio, will broadcast this story Wednesday. You can view the full investigative report Wednesday evening at the station's Web site [www.10tv.com](http://www.10tv.com). The owners of the regional television station also own the Columbus Dispatch, the local daily newspaper. An article about the story will be run in that paper's Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> edition.

It is likely that with the significance of this story it may be picked up by other media outlets in large metropolitan areas by the end of this week and possibly may be picked by national news media outlets as well.

NADL informed the American Dental Association's executive leadership so they could tell their members about this pending story and possible outcomes including the public's response.

The ADA will be sending out an alert to its members this week sharing guidance about what questions to ask dental laboratories relative to outsourcing activity and statements of assurance on material content of dental restorations.

NADL  
325 John Knox Rd L103  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
phone: (800) 950-1150