

We at the office of *Frank A. Kruse, III DDS, Family Dentistry* have a firm belief in the health and care of the patient as a total being.

In recent years, there has been controversial speculation related to the practice of placement by a Dentist of an amalgam (silver) filling to treat a caries decay or cavity. There exists a strong body of evidence that defines mercury as a hazardous material. Since it comprises 50% of the dental amalgam filling, recent theory asserts that placing this type of filling in the body is hazardous to the individual. Even while the legal, moral and ethical debates continue to move through our legislative process, we have chosen to move forward with new treatment options.

Dr. Kruse opened his dental office in Dawsonville in order to offer to patients *Excellence* in dentistry without the use of mercury, a highly regulated hazardous material. In conjunction with this, only white resin composite fillings are offered here. Dr. Kruse served on the staff of LSU during the developmental phase and testing of this "new" technology. He has been utilizing these materials for over 12 years. The results have been consistently amazing. These materials allow for conservative restoration of teeth which might, with different materials, require a much more aggressive treatment to restore.

While resin fillings have been in use for many years, most insurance companies still classify these fillings as "*cosmetic*", and in many cases, will not pay the normal percentage rate allowable for this procedure when it is performed on the molar teeth. Reduced benefits may also apply to other teeth.

Even as we make every effort to obtain the most accurate information from your insurance company in order to provide you with an estimate of cost on your treatment plan, we are not always privy to the particular details of your policy. Any exclusions or limitation clauses with regard to specific benefits on this issue are rarely disclosed to us. While Dr. Kruse and our entire staff assign your health as our greatest priority, we also wish you to have realistic expectations of your insurance coverage and any additional costs that you might incur for treatment by Dr. Kruse related to resin fillings. We encourage you to contact your insurance company for the details of your policy.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to let us know. We encourage you to make informed decisions when it comes to your health care. Our office will continue to provide care under our mission statement, believing and practicing dentistry as a commitment to the total health care of both our patients and our entire staff, offering to you, *Excellence by Choice*.

Dr. Frank Kruse, III, DDS