

Amalgam tattoo

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your condition and contains answers to many of the commonly asked questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like further explanation please ask.

What is an amalgam tattoo?

An amalgam tattoo is an area of blue-black/grey pigmentation caused by amalgam (silver) filling particles that have become embedded in the cheek, gums, tongue or roof of the mouth. They are flat and usually quite small but are easy to see. A tattoo can be created during a dental procedure. It can also develop over a period of time.

They are quite common and many people do not realise they have them.

The tattoos are not dangerous and will not cause you any harm. They are similar to skin tattoos in principle.

Symptoms

There are no symptoms of an amalgam tattoo. In most cases, you won't know you have one. They are usually found by your dentist or hygienist.

Diagnosis

A diagnosis will be made based on your history and by observation. Your dentist may refer you for a biopsy or an x-ray of that area. An amalgam tattoo is permanent unless it is removed surgically.

Treatment

If the area turns out to be an amalgam tattoo, no treatment is necessary.

Contact us

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Further information

www.dentalhealth.org.uk/

Visit the Trust website at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk