

The Naturopath's Advice

School of Dentistry – Ethics Elective Case

Dr. Kevin was treating a patient, Ms. Holloway who was also seeing a naturopath physician to help her with her allergies. Ms. Holloway had three large posterior amalgam alloys that she insisted needed to be replaced with composite because her naturopath told her she was allergic to “mercury fillings”. Dr. Kevin started to tell her that in most cases, alloy has proven a better choice in posterior teeth but Ms. Holloway made it pretty clear that she was going to do what her naturopath told her to do. He tried to help her understand the procedure, risk associated and material science of both restorations.

Dr. Kevin was frustrated that his professional skills and judgment had been undermined by another clinician. He wanted to tell the patient that the naturopath was making a diagnosis out of his field of expertise. After a long PARQ statement, Dr. Kevin was treatment planning the composites but not very happy about it. He knew it was not the best option for the patient.