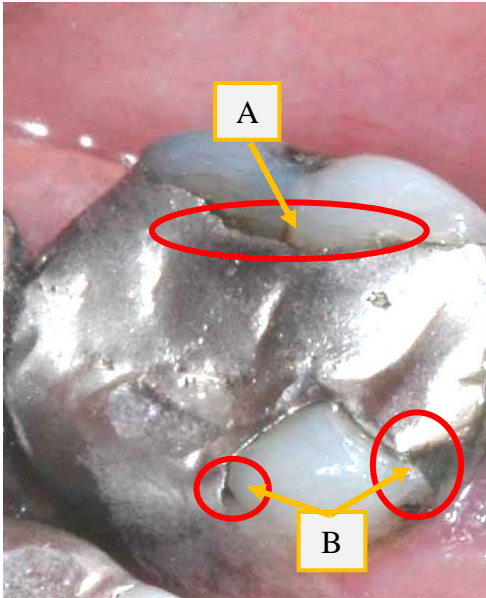


These are some typical examples of an old large fillings that are near the end of their service lives.

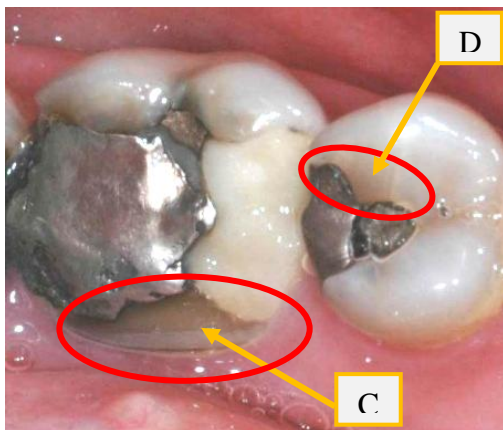


Notice the upper edge of the filling. What's important to notice is the gap between the silver filling and the tooth enamel indicated by the letter A on the photo.

This gap tells us that this filling is beginning to fail ... and likely leaking ... which will eventually lead to new decay.

The letter B is pointing to two dark areas where small pieces of filling have chipped away, leaving exposed and unprotected tooth.

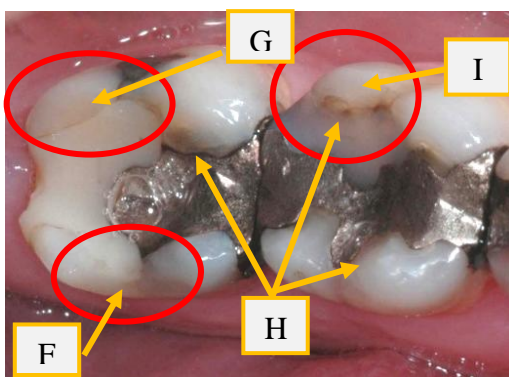
This old filling needs to be removed and the underlying tooth structure inspected for additional decay or structural weakness, in order to avoid accidental breakage or catastrophic fracture and even tooth lost.



The tooth on the left has a large old silver filling which was "patched" with a newer white composite material, which typically doesn't bond well to silver fillings.

The big problem is the bottom side broken off the tooth on the left, leaving the underlying tooth structure exposed and damaged, as marked by the letter C. The remaining tooth structure is prone to catastrophic fracture and even tooth lost at any time.

The small tooth on the right also has a failing filling. The yellow margin of the filling's on top side, indicates decay is likely there, marked with the letter D.



This another example of "patchwork dentistry." The enamel is very thin and weak on the bottom of the left tooth, indicated by the letter F. The lower side of this tooth is going to break off or even worse have catastrophic fracture at any time.

The upper left cuspid on left molar is flat, marked by the letter G. This indicates that patient is grinding their teeth at night with lot of force ... making a catastrophic fracture even more likely.

The letter H points to multiple brown stains, which are signs that the filling(s) are leaking ... likely with added decay underneath.

The right tooth is especially interesting, because the seal between the two filling materials will imperfect, especially when a patient places large amounts of pressure from grinding their teeth. In combination with the brown stains present, indicated that the upper left cuspid is likely to break off on this tooth as well.