What is Oral Galvanism?

Oral galvanism (also called galvanic shock or dental galvanism) is a phenomenon where a small electrical current is generated in the mouth, usually due to different metals interacting in dental work.

How it Happens

Your saliva acts as an electrolyte. When you have two dissimilar metals in your mouth—such as:

A silver (amalgam) filling and a gold crown

Different metal alloys in fillings, crowns, implants, or braces

they can create a battery-like reaction, producing an electrical current.

Common Symptoms

Symptoms can vary widely and may be intermittent:

- Sharp, electric or "zinging" sensation when biting or touching metal
- Metallic or bitter taste
- Burning sensation in the mouth or tongue
- Jaw or tooth pain with no clear dental cause
- Sensitivity to hot, cold, or pressure
- Headaches or facial pain
- Tremor-like movements that can mimic neurological diseases like MS or Parkinson's

Who is Likely to Experience Oral Galvanism?

- People with multiple types of metal dental restorations

- Those with amalgam (silver) fillings

- Individuals with acidic saliva or dry mouth (can increase conductivity)

- People sensitive to electrical or metal interactions

How To Diagnose

- Dental exam reviewing metal restorations

- Measuring electrical currents between restorations (some dentists do this)

- Symptom correlation (e.g., pain when metals touch)

- Advanced Biomeridian Testing can help determine the presence of this

Treatment Options

- Replacing one metal with a non-metal restoration (ceramic or composite)

- Ensuring metals are electrically isolated from each other (e.g., wearing appliance that prevents direct contact between upper and lower teeth)

- Managing saliva pH and oral hygiene

- In severe cases, selective removal of problematic restorations