

INFO ON SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

Information:

- Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is an antibiotic and tooth remineralizing liquid/medication. In studies, it has **prevented over 75% of cavities from getting larger, prevent new cavities from forming, and decrease sensitivity in teeth.**
- Treatment with SDF does **NOT** eliminate the need for fillings or crowns to replace lost tooth structure and restore function and esthetics.
- Procedure: 1) Dry the affected area, 2) Paint SDF solution with a small brush 3) Allow to dry 4) **Multiple applications, may be required to obtain desired results**
- SDF should not be used with patients who have 1) a documented allergy to silver 2) painful sores in the mouth or gums



Benefits:

- SDF treatment is an additional treatment that is used for the temporary stabilization/arrest of decay and prevention of new decay. For some, this treatment can allow time for emotional or physical maturity before attempting definitive treatment like fillings or crowns.
- Best for: People who are unable to receive dental treatment in a “traditional” manner (i.e. young, fearful, special health care needs) and who would prefer to avoid sedation.
- SDF treatment is FDA approved to decrease tooth sensitivity.



2 y.o. + SDF

Risks:

- SDF treatment turns decayed areas of the affected tooth **DARK BLACK**. Stained tooth structure can be later replaced with a filling or crown.
- Skin and gum tissues surrounding the treated area can turn brown or white for a period of a few weeks. This causes no harm but cannot be washed off.
- Decay may progress, even with SDF treatment. If tooth decay does not arrest, the affected tooth will require further treatment that may be more extensive than currently planned. These may include crowns, root canal treatments, or extractions. **No guarantee of success is granted or implied.**
- SDF may not be a covered benefit by your insurance, or may share a frequency with restorations.



Same 2 y.o. →
4 y.o. + crowns

Alternatives to SDF:

- No treatment. This option may lead to further progression of decay, which can mean the beginning or worsening of pain, more extensive treatment options, and possible infection/abscess.
- Fluoride varnish placed more frequently. Fluoride varnish is at least 3x less effective as SDF at preventing the progression of decay, but will not discolor the teeth.
- SDF treatment may sometimes be used in conjunction with a temporary filling material to increase its chance of success and restore some function and esthetics.
- Definitive treatment including fillings, crowns or extractions with advanced behavior management techniques (including sedation).