

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is an antimicrobial liquid that is used on cavities to help stop tooth decay. It can also be used to treat tooth sensitivity. Depending on your dentist's assessment of your decay risk, multiple applications of SDF may be necessary. Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental restorations to repair function or esthetics.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the benefits of being treated with SDF?

A significant benefit of SDF is that it is quickly and simply applied without the need for anesthetic. In many cases, SDF has been shown to stop tooth decay.

As well, SDF may:

- Help relieve tooth sensitivity
- Interrupt the progression of tooth decay long enough to allow staging of dental care

2. What is the procedure for SDF treatment?

The affected areas are gently dried and small amount of SDF is placed on decayed areas of the teeth. After a minute, the excess SDF is rinsed and removed.



Before



After

3. What are the side effects of SDF treatment?

- Areas of tooth decay will stain black permanently and may be very visible. Healthy areas will not stain.
- Tooth-colored fillings and crowns may stain when SDF is applied.
- Brown or white stains may appear on the skin or gums; those stains cause no harm and will disappear in 1-3 weeks.
- A metallic taste may occur for a short time after treatment.
- SDF may not always stop decay after one treatment; teeth may need reapplication of SDF every month for 2-3 months then one time per year after that.



Before



After

4. What are the alternatives to SDF treatment?

- Restore teeth with fillings, crowns, root canals
- Extract teeth

5. Who should not be treated with SDF?

- Persons with known allergies or sensitivities to silver or fluoride
- Persons with painful sores or raw areas on the gums or anywhere in the mouth