



SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE FACT SHEET

Facts for consideration

- **Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is an antibiotic liquid. SDF is used on lesions to help stop cavities and also to treat tooth sensitivity. SDF application is every 3 to 12 months as necessary.**
- The procedure: Dry the affected area. Place a small amount of SDF on the affected area. Apply a fluoride varnish.
- Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental fillings or crowns to repair function or esthetics.
- I should **not** be treated with SDF if:
 - I am allergic to silver.
 - There are painful sores or raw areas on my gums or anywhere in my mouth.

Benefits of receiving SDF

- **SDF can help stop cavities.**
- SDF can help relieve tooth sensitivity.
- SDF application is fast, simple, and painless.

Risks related to SDF include, but no limited to:

- **The cavity/decay will stain black permanently, and this means SDF is working properly. Please note that even without SDF, cavities are dark and will get darker as they progress.** Healthy tooth structure will not stain. Stained tooth structure can be replaced with a filling or crown.
- Tooth-colored fillings and crowns may discolor if SDF is applied to them. Color changes on the surface can normally be polished off. The edge between a tooth and filling may keep the color.
- If accidentally applied to the skin or gums, a brown or white temporary stain may appear that causes no harm, cannot be washed off, and will disappear in one to three weeks.
- You may notice a metallic taste. This will go away rapidly.
- If cavities are not fixed, the decay will progress. In that case the tooth will require further treatment, such as repeat SDF, a filling or crown, root canal treatment, or extraction.
- These side effects may not include all the possible situations reported by the manufacturer. If you notice other effects, please contact your dental provider.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure the success of SDF treatment. There is risk that the procedure will not stop the decay, and no guarantee of success is granted or implied.

Alternatives to SDF, not limited to the following:

- No treatment, which may lead to continued infection and deterioration of tooth structures and cosmetic appearance. Symptoms may increase in severity.
- Depending on the location and extent of the tooth decay, other treatment may include placement of fluoride varnish, a filling or crown, extraction, or referral to a specialist.