

Consent: Silver Diamine Fluoride

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is an antimicrobial liquid that can be used to treat cavities or stop tooth decay. It can also be used to treat tooth sensitivity. SDF may need to be placed every 6 – 12 months or more as determined by the dentist. SDF is bactericidal, inhibits demineralization, and promotes re-mineralization. The fluoride component helps to re-mineralize the tooth, and the silver acts as an antimicrobial agent.



Figure 1. Primary Incisors Before SDF Treatment.



Figure 2. Primary Incisors After SDF Treatment.

The procedure is very simple. It includes: placing petroleum jelly on lips, isolating the application area, drying the tooth, applying SDF with a micro brush or floss, and waiting 30 seconds while maintaining isolation. The patient is then instructed not to eat or drink for 30 minutes and avoid brushing and flossing for 24 hours.

Treatment with SDF does not necessarily eliminate the need for dental fillings or crowns to repair function or esthetics.

Benefits	Risks
Help stop tooth decay	Affected area will stain black permanently
No caries or tooth removal (“drilling”)	Tooth colored fillings/crowns may discolor if SDF is placed next to them.
Quick procedure	If accidentally applied to gums, skin, or tongue – a brown stain may appear temporarily
Can relieve tooth sensitivity	May have a metallic taste
Painless	Have any cold sores or ulcers in their mouth
Minimal patient compliance	Allergy to silver

There is a risk that the procedure will not stop decay and no guarantee of success is granted or implied. If tooth decay is not arrested, the decay will progress. In that case the tooth may require further treatment, such as repeat SDF, crown, filling or extraction. Also there is a risk in no treatment at all. The tooth may result in continuation deterioration, infection and pain for your child. Alternatives include – use of repeated fluoride varnish, placement of filling or crown or extraction of affected tooth which may require advance treatment modalities such as sedation or general anesthesia.

I understand that Silver Diamine Fluoride will turn a dark brown color where it is placed. I also understand that it can temporarily stain my child’s lips, gums, tongue or any other tissues that it may touch.

 Patient Name Date of Birth _____

 Parent Print Parent Signature Date _____