

Silver Diamine Fluoride

Fact Sheet

WHAT IS SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE (SDF)?



- SDF is an antibacterial liquid that contains silver and fluoride.
- It is applied onto tooth decay (a cavity) to stop it from growing.

HOW CAN SDF HELP MY CHILD?



- SDF can stop tooth decay from growing and getting worse.
- It can prevent or slow the need for more extensive treatment, like fillings or tooth removal.
- It can prevent the need for dental treatment under anesthesia.

HOW IS SDF APPLIED?



- Treatment is quick, easy, and painless.
- After drying the area, the liquid is applied to the suspected tooth decay with a small brush for one minute.
- Fluoride varnish is applied to the treated area.
- Children can eat and drink afterwards.
- SDF needs to be reapplied 1-3 weeks after the first application and then again in about 6-12 months if no other treatment is done.

IS SDF SAFE?



- Yes, it has been approved by Health Canada since 2017.
- It has been used for over 80 years in other countries with no major health risks or severe reactions.

Your child should not have SDF treatment if they have:

1. **An allergy to silver or or any known product ingredient.**
2. **Painful sores or raw areas on their gums or anywhere in their mouth.**
3. **Deep tooth decay, pain, or infection.**

SIDE EFFECTS:

SDF will permanently stain the tooth decay dark brown or **black**. This means it is working. Healthy tooth structure will not stain.

If SDF accidentally touches the skin, lips, gums, or tongue, it will leave a dark stain for up to 2 weeks.

SDF has a metallic taste. This will go away quickly.



Before SDF



After SDF



Before SDF



After SDF

Top photo courtesy of Pediatric Dentistry V38: No3, May/June 2016

Bottom photo courtesy of of FNHA

ARE THERE OTHER TREATMENT OPTIONS?

- Permanent or temporary fillings
- Crowns
- Extractions
- If untreated, the tooth decay may continue to grow and cause pain and infection.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

- SDF has a very good success rate, but there is no guarantee that it will always stop the tooth decay.
- It is very important to continue to see your dentist to monitor these and other areas.
- SDF-stained areas can be replaced with a filling.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

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