

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE (SDF)

Information for patients

You have been provided with this information as we have recommended Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) for you or someone you care about. If you have any questions after reading this information, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to assist.

Office information here

What is SDF?:

- Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a liquid used on cavities to arrest tooth decay and to treat tooth sensitivity.
- When the SDF has arrested (stopped) the cavity from progressing, the lesion will turn **dark brown or black** (see photo).
- **Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental fillings or crowns to repair function or esthetics,** however, for our young children or clients in long term care it may be the next best option.

Benefits of SDF:

- SDF can stop some tooth decay from progressing and may reduce tooth sensitivity.
- Is relatively easy and painless.



untreated
lesion

treated
lesion

How safe is SDF:

- SDF has been used across the world since the 1800's. The current research indicates that SDF is safe for children & adults and in 2016 received FDA approval and in 2017 received approval by Health Canada as an anti-cavity agent. Although demonstrated to be safe, if individuals 1) have a **silver allergy** 2) are **pregnant or nursing**; 3) have **sores or raw areas on the gums**; they should not be treated with SDF.

Outcomes related to SDF:

- **The treated area will stain black permanently** and healthy tooth structure will not stain. Stained tooth structure can be replaced with a filling at any time.
- Tooth-colored fillings and crowns may also discolor if SDF is applied to them. Normally this color change is temporary and can be polished off.
- If accidentally applied to the skin or gums, a brown or white stain may appear that causes no harm, cannot be washed off, and will normally disappear in 1-3 days.
- A metallic taste may be noticed; however, this will go away rapidly.
- If tooth decay (cavity) is not arrested, the decay can progress which could result in tooth fracture, abscess, etc. This is why multiple applications may be necessary.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure the success of SDF treatment. There is a 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 deterioration of tooth structure. 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, crown, extraction, or referral for advanced treatment

How long do the effects last?

- . If the tooth was not restored with a filling then re-application every 6 months is normally recommended.

Cost of SDF application/s:

Indicate your cost here if you want (otherwise delete this section).