

## **Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)**

### **What is Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)?**

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a cavity-arresting liquid. Since the 1970's, SDF has been accepted as a therapeutic agent in Japan. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved SDF for clinical use. The silver acts as an antimicrobial while the fluoride promotes remineralization of the affected tooth. SDF is applied to the affected area approximately every 6 months until the decay is arrested.

How is it applied?

1. Dry the affected area
2. Place a small amount of SDF on the affected area
3. Allow SDF to dry
4. Rinse

Facts for consideration:

- Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a topical medicament to help stop tooth decay and relieve sensitivity. SDF application every 6 - 12 months is necessary.
- Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental fillings and/or crowns to repair function and esthetics. Additional procedures will incur a separate fee.

I should not be treated to SDF if:

1. Allergic to silver
2. Child has painful mouth sores

Risks related to SDF include, but are not limited to:

- The affected area will stain black permanently. Healthy tooth structure will not stain. Stained tooth structure can be replaced with a filling or crown.
- Tooth-colored fillings and crowns may discolor and can normally be polished off.
- If accidentally applied to skins or gums, a harmless brown or white stain may appear which will resolve in one to three weeks.
- You may notice a transient metallic taste
- If tooth decay is not arrested, the decay will progress. In that case the tooth will require further treatment, such as repeat SDF filling, crown, root canal treatment and/or extraction.
- 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 increased severity of tooth decay and symptoms.
- Depending on the location and extent of tooth decay, other treatment may include placement of fluoride varnish, filling, crown, and/ or extraction.

