

Silver Diamine Fluoride

What is Silver Diamine Fluoride or SDF?

SDF is used by dentists to treat cavities. It uses silver to make your tooth stronger and helps prevent tooth decay.

- It's a painless option that doesn't involve drilling and filling. Its applied by painting the tooth with SDF.

Who should get SDF?

Patients with a high risk of getting cavities.

- with limited or no access to dental care.
- with special needs (physical/learning disabilities).

Patients that have cavities that are difficult to reach.



Who shouldn't get SDF?

Patients who are allergic to silver or have painful gums or sores in their mouth.

What happens during the SDF treatment?

1. The dentist takes out any plaque or trapped food on the tooth.
2. The dentist focuses the area that is treated with cotton rolls or gauze and dries the area with air.
3. The SDF is applied onto the tooth with a small brush for about 1 minute. No more than 1-2 drops of SDF is used for the treatment. During this visit, the dentist takes care not to stain any clothes, gums, or nearby teeth.
4. The tooth is isolated until the SDF is dry.
5. The SDF is checked at further visits and more applications may be needed. (Visits are every 6 months for 2 years.)



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Benefits of SDF:

- Eases tooth pain.
- Slows down or stops tooth decay.
- Prevents more fillings or tooth pulling.

Downsides of SDF:

- The tooth area will stain black seen like below.
- Fillings can also be stained.
- If applied to the skin or gums a brown stain can appear. (This cannot be washed off but it does not cause any harm)
- If applied to clothes by mistake, it can leave a stain that does not come off.
- A metal taste can be felt at first, but will go away within a couple weeks.

Before

After



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