

K O I S C E N T E R I N F O R M E D C O N S E N T S I L V E R D I A M I N E F L U O R I D E

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is silver diamine fluoride?**

- Silver diamine fluoride [SDF] is an antimicrobial liquid that is used on cavities to help stop tooth decay.
- SDF is also used to treat sensitive teeth.

2. **What are the benefits of silver diamine fluoride?**

- SDF has been shown to stop tooth decay.
- SDF has been shown to relieve tooth sensitivity.

3. **When is silver diamine fluoride used?**

- When decay risk is severe, cavities that are very difficult to treat, or for more cavities that can be treated at one visit.
- When a person has behavioural, physical or medical challenges that prevent traditional care.
- When there is no access to care.

4. **How is silver diamine fluoride applied?**

SDF liquid is applied to each cavity for one minute then rinsed with water.

5. **How often should silver diamine fluoride be applied?**

SDF should be applied at least twice a year for two years after the initial treatment.

6. **What are the limitations of silver diamine fluoride?**

- Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for fillings or crowns to restore tooth structure. These additional procedures require a separate fee.
- SDF, like any medication, is not always effective and decay can progress. Further treatment may be required.

7. **When should silver diamine fluoride not be used?**

- When a person is allergic to silver.
- When a person has any ulcer or painful sores on their gums or anywhere in their mouth.

8. **What are the side effects of silver diamine fluoride?**

- The treated area will stain black permanently over the following week. Healthy tooth structure will not stain.
- If SDF is accidentally applied on the skin or gums a small painless brown or white stain may appear. It will go away in 2 days.
- A metallic taste may happen but will not last.
- These side effects may not include all of the possible side effects. If you notice any other effects please contact your dentist.

9. **Alternatives to silver diamine fluoride include but are not limited to the following:**

- No treatment. This could lead to more and deeper cavities and damage to tooth structure and symptoms may worsen.
- Removal of decay using traditional fillings, crowns, root canals or extractions if these procedures are possible.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL MY QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED:

_____ (signature of patient)

_____ (date)

_____ (signature of dentist)

_____ (date)