

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is an antibiotic liquid that is used on cavities to help slow the progression of tooth decay. It is also used to treat sensitive teeth.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

- In many cases SDF has been shown to stop tooth decay completely. In other cases, it will interrupt the progression of tooth decay long enough to allow staging of dental care.
- It is simply and quickly applied without the need for local anesthetic.
- It can help relieve tooth sensitivity.

2. *How is silver diamine fluoride applied?*

The affected area is isolated with cotton rolls and dried. A small drop of SDF is applied to the area for several minutes and allowed to air dry. Any remaining SDF is suctioned away.

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

Depending on the decay risk it needs to be reapplied twice a year or more often until more permanent treatment can be carried out.

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

- Areas of tooth decay will stain black permanently over the following week. Healthy areas will not stain.
- A metallic taste may occur but does not last.
- If accidentally applied to the skin or gums a small brown or white stain may appear. This is not painful but cannot be washed off. It will disappear in forty-eight hours.
- Tooth-coloured fillings and crowns may stain when SDF is applied.

5. *Are there limitations to silver diamine fluoride?*

You will still need fillings or crowns to repair your teeth in order to restore function and aesthetics.

6. *When should I not be treated with silver diamine fluoride?*

- If you have known allergies or sensitivities to silver or fluoride.
- If you have any ulcer or painful sores on your gums or anywhere in your mouth.

7. *What are my alternatives to silver diamine fluoride?*

- Restore your teeth with fillings, crowns, and if necessary root canal treatment.
- Extraction of the teeth.



Before Treatment



After Treatment with SDF