

## Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Treatment

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is used for protection on areas at higher risk for tooth decay and for the reduction in tooth sensitivity. Silver Diamine Fluoride has been used extensively in many countries for more than 50 years and it is FDA approved. No needles, no drills -it is painted on the tooth



Photo credit Dr. Steve Duffin

## Benefits of Silver Diamine Fluoride

Takes a few minutes to apply  
hidden decay  
drilling/painless

Root desensitizing  
Decreases plaque (biofilm) buildup  
Under crowns and at crown margins

Stains visible and  
NO needles or

Furcations, root decay, watched areas  
Strengthens teeth making them more acid and abrasion resistant

Special needs, in facilities, dementia



Photo credit Dr. Steve Duffin



Photo credit Dr. Steve Duffin

It can be used at the margins and under crowns, for broken teeth, for those in long-term care facilities or if it will be a long wait for dental work. You can treat the whole mouth in one visit!

**Side effects** Not to be used with people who have an allergy to silver or who have desquamative gingivitis (red irritated/infected gums). Can temporarily stain the lips, gums. There can be a metallic taste that goes away quickly. Stains the tooth decay permanently.

## SMART – silver modified atraumatic restorative treatment

Use of SDF and then glass ionomer cement to cover the black and fill holes.



Photo credit Dr. Jeanette MacLean



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The black can be covered with a tooth colored filling called a glass ionomer cement, no drilling or needles are necessary. Even though this is an option, fillings do NOT need to be done.



*Dr. Jeanette MacLean kidsteethandbraces.com*



*Superfloss technique w/ blue Advantage Arrest*

Can be used on cavities in between the teeth!

### How do I know it is working?

The SDF turns the decay black and creates a **scar**. When this occurs, the dark surface becomes hard to gentle probing. This also reduces sensitivity to hot, cold, and sweets. The arrested cavity does not grow in size and actually shrinks! Data on this procedure suggests that when all active cavities become inactive, there is a reduced chance of new cavities developing.

### Who will benefit from this treatment?

Everyone can benefit from the treatment of Silver Diamine Fluoride. Children can have a no needle/no drill treatment to save baby teeth for eating, speaking, smiling and keeping place holders for permanent teeth. Adults can manage treatment over time, particularly when dealing with multiple areas of decay. As Silver Diamine Fluoride slows or even stops decay from progressing allowing patients the ability to manage appointment time and expense of future restorative work. Provides a stop gap method of care for frail

seniors and physically or mentally challenged patients that can prevent expensive hospital visits while improving quality of life.