

What is it?

A topical medication applied directly to cavities to treat and prevent dental caries (tooth decay) and relieve dentinal hypersensitivity.

Great for:

- Infants and young children who would need sedation to treat decay
- Special needs patients
- Patients without access to dental care
- Patients with severe dental phobia
- Patients with high risk conditions

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Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)



Pros

- Quick, easy, painless
- No drilling
- Relieves sensitivity
- Strengthens natural tooth structure
- Avoids or delays more involved dental work
- Highly successful in stopping the development and spread of cavities
- Can cover approximately five teeth at once
- Can keep decaying baby teeth from negatively impacting surrounding healthy permanent teeth
- Can prevent hospital dental surgery in young children



Before

After

How It's Applied

1. The area to be treated is isolated with cotton rolls and dried thoroughly.
2. A small dab of SDF liquid is applied using a small brush.
3. The liquid is allowed to sit for 1 minute.
4. The area is rinsed thoroughly with water.
5. The area darkens over the next 24-48 hours which means it has hardened.
6. The area should be evaluated every 6 months in case SDF should be re-applied.

Cons

- Permanently stains cavities black
- Cavities that trap food may need more advanced dental work
- Not an option for deep cavities
- 20% of cavities continue to grow
- Is a treatment for cavities, not a cure
- Cannot be used on patients with a silver allergy
- Should not be used if there are sores on the gums

Proper diet and oral hygiene, including daily flossing are important for long term success!