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

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)

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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

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!

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.