

A **new** dental treatment to fight cavities!



Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Fact Sheet

It's a fact.

Dental cavities remain one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood.

But now we have a safe, painless way of treating cavities. It's called silver diamine fluoride, or SDF, and its use is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) for cavity control.

What is SDF?

SDF is an FDA-approved, colorless antibiotic liquid used to help prevent cavities from forming, growing, or spreading to other teeth. SDF is composed of two main ingredients:

- **Silver** to help kill bacteria
- **Fluoride** to help teeth rebuild the materials they're made of

How is it applied?

- SDF is applied directly to the surface of the teeth.
- It is brushed on quickly and painlessly.

How will SDF benefit students?

- There's no numbing or drilling. (This can be especially helpful for children who have anxiety about the dentist.)
- SDF has widely been shown to be effective in stopping cavity development and spread after a cavity has formed.
- SDF helps kill the bacteria that break down tooth surfaces while also keeping them from spreading to other teeth.

What else do I need to know about SDF?



- **SDF will stain the cavity a brown or black color.**
 - The brown/black color indicates that the SDF is working.
 - The healthy parts of the tooth will not be stained.
 - The dentist will use SDF on back teeth only.
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- SDF can also temporarily stain nearby tissues in the mouth. The stain causes no harm and should disappear on its own within a few days to a couple of weeks.
 - SDF may cause a temporary metallic taste.
 - SDF is not used in patients with a known silver allergy or with painful sores or cuts in the mouth.
 - SDF treatment that does not stop tooth decay will require restorative treatment.
 - SDF was first approved for use in Japan decades ago and was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2014.

SDF has been proven to be highly successful in stopping the development and spread of cavities.

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Questions?
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