

UCSF DENTAL CENTER INFORMED CONSENT FOR SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

Facts for Consideration:

- Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is an antibiotic liquid. We use SDF on cavities to help stop tooth decay. We also use it to treat tooth sensitivity. SDF application every six to 12 months is necessary.
- The procedure: 1. Dry the affected area. 2. Place a small amount of SDF on the affected area. 3. Allow SDF to dry for one minute. 4. Rinse.
- **Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental fillings or crowns to repair function or esthetics. Additional procedures will incur a separate fee.**
- I should not be treated with SDF if: 1. I am allergic to silver. 2. There are painful sores or raw areas on my gums (i.e., ulcerative gingivitis) or anywhere in my mouth (i.e., stomatitis).

Benefits of receiving SDF:

- SDF can help stop tooth decay.
- SDF can help relieve sensitivity.

Risks related to SDF include, but are not limited to:

- The affected area will stain black permanently. Healthy tooth structure will not stain. Stained tooth structure can be replaced with a filling or a crown.
- Tooth-colored fillings and crowns may discolor if SDF is applied to them. Color changes on the surface can normally be polished off. The edge between a tooth and filling may keep the color.
- If accidentally applied to the skin or gums, a brown or white stain may appear that causes no harm, cannot be washed off and will disappear in one to three weeks.
- You may notice a metallic taste. This will go away rapidly.
- If tooth decay is not arrested, the decay will progress. In that case the tooth will require further treatment, such as repeat SDF, a filling or crown, root canal treatment or extraction.
- These side effects may not include all of the possible situations reported by the manufacturer. If you notice other effects, please contact your dental provider.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure the success of SDF treatment. There is a risk that the procedure will not stop the decay and no guarantee of success is granted or implied.

Alternative to SDF, not limited to the following:

- No treatment, which may lead to continue deterioration of tooth structures and cosmetic appearance. Symptoms may increase in severity, with tooth nerve involvement.
- Depending on the location and extent of the tooth decay, other treatment may include placement of fluoride varnish, a filling or crown, extraction or referral for advanced treatment modalities.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL MY QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED:

_____ (signature of patient) _____ (date)

_____ (signature of witness) _____ (date)

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