

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)

SDF is an antimicrobial liquid that can be applied to teeth with dental decay to stop (or “arrest”) the cavity.

The cavity will not go away, it will just stop getting worse. It is part of a cavity management plan. Diet, home care, and other factors will also impact ultimate success.

It is a treatment option for certain types of cavities such as surface cavities not in the nerve or for the very young child when more traditional care would be challenging.

The doctor will determine if your child is a good candidate for this procedure and if so will review it with you.

Pros:

No need for novocaine (“the needle”), or dental drilling

Slows down or stops cavity progression

Cons:

The material turns the cavities of the treated teeth a deep black color. It is unaesthetic.

It does not restore “form and function” to the tooth. The cavity area will not “grow back”.

We will discuss with you our recommendation for the number of applications at the initial visit.

Please be aware that there are varying levels of insurance coverage from different plans for this procedure. We will submit for you, but we feel you should view this as a procedure NOT covered by your insurance (or with very limited coverage), and expect an out of pocket expense for you. Our front desk staff will review the cost of this treatment with you.



Active cavitated caries lesions before application of SDF



SDF-treated lesions with temporary gingival staining