Silver Diamine Fluoride

Silver Diamine Fluoride **(SDF)** is a liquid made up of fluoride and silver particles to help stop cavities from getting worse. SDF stops cavities by killing the bacteria in the tooth that causes decay and helps keep the tooth healthy. SDF can be used by a dentist or medical provider.

How is SDF applied?

Your provider will take a small amount of the liquid SDF and put it on any areas of your teeth that have a cavity. Your provider will put a separate fluoride varnish over all of your teeth after they put on SDF. This helps prevent cavities in other parts of your mouth and masks any bad taste from the treatment.

Typically, 2 treatments of SDF are needed. The second treatment is 6 months after the first application.

What are the benefits of SDF?

- SDF treatment is quick and painless.
    - Because you won't have a long wait time, SDF is a good option for young children, or children with intellectual or developmental disabilities that have problems with normal dental treatment or normally require sedation at the dentist.
- SDF can stop cavities from getting worse.
- SDF delays or prevents the need for more invasive dental treatments.
- SDF is an accessible option for children who have limited access to a dentist.

What are the risks of SDF?

- SDF will permanently stain the cavity in your teeth black. The black color means that treatment is working. If SDF accidentally gets on your gum or lips, it will temporarily turn the area brown for up to 3 weeks. Healthy parts of your teeth will **NOT** be stained.
- SDF contains silver and should **NOT** be used if you have a silver allergy.

Picture of permanent black staining

Time 0	I Day	I Week
Active Decay and Pain	SDF Working	No Decay No Pain

FROM THE FIRST TOOTH
HEALTHY SMILES FOR LIFE

What else is important for me to know?

- There are other treatment options that a dental provider can offer to fix a cavity. A dental provider can treat cavities with a filling, crown, or by removing the tooth.

- If your cavity is large and is sensitive to hot or cold items, this could mean the nerve of your tooth is exposed. SDF will NOT be used if the nerve of your tooth is exposed.

Does insurance pay for this?

- MaineCare insurance will cover SDF treatment. Many private insurance companies do not cover the cost of this procedure. Please call your insurance provider to discuss coverage of this treatment if you have questions about what you may owe.

Questions?

- Please contact your provider for more information and to see if this treatment is right for you.

FROM THE FIRST TOOTH
HEALTHY SMILES FOR LIFE