



Miles of Smiles, Ltd.

Fight Cavities with Silver Diamine Fluoride

Dental cavities are common in children, but now our dentists have a safe, painless alternative to traditional cavity drilling procedures called silver diamine fluoride (SDF). SDF is an FDA-approved antibiotic liquid used to help prevent cavities from growing or spreading to other teeth. The dentist or dental hygienist simply brushes SDF on the decayed area of the tooth only. Our consent forms will now have SDF as an option with signature if parents decide they want SDF treatment done for their child.

For more information about SDF, read our FAQ below. Learn more about protecting your teeth by watching [Fluoride: The Superhero of Cavity Fighting](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9UuXmQH1fo):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9UuXmQH1fo>

What is Silver Diamine Fluoride?

Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is a liquid medication for treating teeth with cavities. SDF treatment is quick, painless, and performed by a dental provider.

What does SDF look like on teeth?

Before: An unfilled cavity in a tooth.



After: A cavity that has been filled with SDF.



What are the benefits of receiving SDF treatment?

SDF immediately hardens cavities and stops them from getting worse. During SDF treatment, liquid is placed onto the cavity using a small brush. SDF treatment may prevent the need for more invasive treatments (such as fillings, crowns, and pulling out teeth). It is also a good option for children who have

limited access to dental care or trouble tolerating dental treatment. There is no injection or drilling required.

Is SDF treatment safe?

Yes, SDF treatment is safe and has no known harmful effects. SDF should not be used on people allergic to silver or who have sores or cuts in their mouths. As a precaution, the new consent form will ask if the patient is allergic to silver.

What are the side effects of receiving SDF treatment?

SDF treatment can stain cavities. Cavities are often soft and brown in color. SDF treatment hardens the cavities and turns the area black (which shows that the SDF is working). Stains can be covered over with a tooth-colored filling in the future. The school-based dental program does not provide a tooth-colored filling, please contact a dentist in your community or your health insurance plan for a referral.

Healthy areas of the tooth will not change color. Rarely, SDF that drips onto the skin or gums may cause a small, temporary stain that lasts a few days. Use a tissue soaked in warm salt water to help remove the staining on the skin.

Can I eat or drink after SDF is applied?

Yes, SDF sets in about one minute after it has been applied. You can eat shortly after. Please avoid salty foods for 24 hours after application.

Is SDF treatment right for my child?

Teeth treated with SDF should be regularly checked by a dentist. While SDF treatment can temporarily stop cavities from getting bigger, it does not repair holes that cavities make in the teeth. Some teeth treated with SDF may need a filling or a crown as a permanent solution. SDF may also need to be reapplied at future dental visits.

SDF treatment will not prevent new cavities from forming. Cavities will continue to develop if a patient does not change their habits. It is recommended that patients brush their teeth twice daily, avoid sugary foods and drinks, and visit the dentist regularly.

Is SDF treatment covered by dental insurance?

Medicaid/ ALL KIDS in Illinois covers SDF treatment. To sign up for Medicaid or receive information contact hfs.illinois.gov.

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