

Silver Diamine Fluoride

Silver Diamine Fluoride is a **cavity arresting medicament** used to stop or slow down the cavity process.

It is a conservative treatment used on asymptomatic teeth. Application of the cavity arresting medicine is done without having to remove tooth structure.

The cavity process is a complex disease with bacteria causing tooth breakdown. The silver diamine fluoride is a **topical medicine** that acts by killing the bacteria and hardening the remaining tooth.

The goal is to stop the active cavity - when the silver binds to tooth it **turns the cavity lesion BLACK/DARK BROWN.**

You know the treatment has worked when the **cavity turns black.** Arresting of caries may occur after one application but additional applications may be needed.

Since SDF does not restore tooth structure, future treatment such as fillings or crowns may be recommended. Teeth that have been treated with silver diamine fluoride can later be restored with white fillings, thus masking the black stain.

When the silver diamine fluoride is applied to the cavity, **it will not stain the portion of tooth/teeth without a cavity.**

Contraindications:

- Known silver allergy
- Active gum ulcerations

Risk:

- Esthetics of black stain
- Potential for transient irritation of the gums
- Contact of the silver diamine fluoride to skin and/or gums can cause temporary staining ("tattoo") of the skin and/or gums. It is not harmful. Staining will fade over 24-72 hours.

