

# SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

Silver Diamine Fluoride is an antibiotic liquid that is used on cavities to help stop tooth decay. It is also used to treat sensitive teeth.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. **What are the benefits of my teeth being treated with 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. **What is the procedure for Silver Diamine Fluoride treatment of my teeth?**

The affected area is isolated with cotton rolls and dried. A small drop of SDF is placed on the area. The SDF is allowed to dry for 1 minute and the area is then rinsed with water.



### 3. **How often should Silver Diamine Fluoride be applied to my teeth?**

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 treatment of my teeth?**

- 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. **What are the limitations of Silver Diamine Fluoride applied to my teeth?**

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