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Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Information Sheet

Facts for consideration:

- Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is an antibiotic liquid used on cavities to help stop tooth decay, as well as treat tooth sensitivity. SDF application every 6-12 months is necessary.
- Patients who are allergic to silver or have painful sores or raw areas on the gums or anywhere in the mouth (i.e.: ulcerative gingivitis, stomatitis, etc.) should not be treated with SDF
- **Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental fillings or crowns to repair function or aesthetics.**

The Procedure:

1. Dry the affected area
2. Place a small amount of SDF on the affected area
3. Allow SDF to dry for one minute
4. Rinse



Benefits of SDF:

- SDF can help stop tooth decay.
- SDF can help relieve tooth sensitivity.

Risks Related to SDF include, but are not limited to:

- **The affected/treated area will stain black PERMANENTLY.** Healthy tooth structure will not stain. Stained tooth structure can be replaced with a filling or a crown.
- Tooth-colored fillings and crowns may discolor if SDF is applied to them. Color changes on the surface can normally be polished off. The edge between a tooth and filling may keep the color.
- If accidentally applied to the skin or gums, a harmless brown or white stain may appear. This stain cannot be washed off and should disappear within 1-3 weeks.
- Patient may notice a metallic taste in his/her mouth, which will go away in very little time
- If tooth decay is not arrested and continues to progress, patient may require further treatment, which could include re-application of SDF, a filling, crown, root canal or extraction.
- These side effects may not include all of the possible side effects reported by the manufacturer. If you notice additional side effects, please contact your dental provider.

Alternatives to SDF include, but not limited to:

- No treatment, which may lead to continued deterioration of tooth structures and cosmetic appearance; symptoms may also increase in severity
- Depending on location and extent of decay, other treatment may include placement of fluoride varnish, fillings, crown, extraction or referral for advanced treatment modalities.