



Informed Consent for Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Cavity Arrest Treatment

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Chart #: _____

Treating Provider: _____

Date: _____

WHAT IS SDF?

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is an FDA-cleared liquid that contains silver and fluoride. When painted onto a cavity, it can stop the decay from getting worse — a process called 'arresting' the cavity. SDF does not rebuild the tooth, but it can prevent the cavity from growing and reduce sensitivity.

SDF is commonly used for:

- ☐ Young children who are not yet ready to tolerate a dental filling
- ☐ Older adults or patients with special needs where drilling is difficult
- ☐ Patients who wish to delay restorative treatment while monitoring a lesion
- ☐ Reducing sensitivity in exposed root surfaces
- ☐ Other: _____

THE IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW ABOUT SDF — STAINING

SDF will permanently stain the decayed area of the tooth BLACK. Healthy tooth structure will not stain. This stain does not wash off and cannot be polished away. It is the sign that SDF is working. If the treated tooth is in a visible area of the mouth, the stain may be noticeable when smiling or talking. SDF may also temporarily stain skin or gum tissue dark brown or black — this fades within 1–2 weeks.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Non-invasive — no drilling required for the SDF application itself
- Quick, painless application (usually less than one minute)
- Effective at stopping cavities from growing in many cases
- Can reduce tooth sensitivity
- Low cost compared to restorative procedures

RISKS AND POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

- Permanent black staining of decayed tooth structure (see above — this is expected and intended)
- Temporary gum or skin staining that resolves within 1–2 weeks
- SDF does not restore tooth shape or function. A filling may still be needed in the future
- SDF may not fully arrest all cavities in all patients
- Metallic taste immediately after application
- Rare: mild tissue sensitivity if SDF contacts soft tissue for extended periods

ALTERNATIVES

- Traditional restorative treatment (drilling and filling)
- Glass ionomer interim restorative material
- Fluoride varnish (less potent for arresting active decay)
- Monitoring without treatment

⚠ STATE LAW NOTE: [STATE] may require specific informed consent disclosures regarding off-label use or pediatric treatment consent. Verify [STATE] Dental Practice Act requirements and insert applicable language here.

PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand that SDF will cause permanent black staining of any decayed tooth structure and may cause temporary skin/gum staining. I accept this cosmetic side effect. I have read or had read to me all the information above, my questions have been answered, and I voluntarily consent to SDF treatment.

SIGNATURES & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Patient Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian (if patient is a minor)

Relationship

Witness / Staff Signature

Date

Provider / Dentist Signature

Date

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