

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE: MYTHS BUSTED!

MYTHS

- 1. SDF Turns Teeth Black** – SDF DOES NOT turn teeth black; only infected enamel or dentin might turn darker. In many cases, the infected lesion is already discolored and if a posterior tooth is affected, the darkening will not be easily visible. The “black teeth” misconception comes from pediatric cases with full coronal involvement.
- 2. SDF is Only for Pediatric and Home-Bound Patients** – While pediatric and geriatric or disabled (home-bound) use has been widely discussed and accepted, all patients can benefit from SDF.
- 3. No Restoration is Needed After SDF Treatment** – SDF does not restore the form and function of the tooth, therefore, a restoration is necessary in almost all cases. What’s more, the restoration will restore aesthetics and address the issue of the discolored lesion.

TRUTH

SDF DOESN'T TURN TEETH BLACK; IT HELPS PREPARE THEM FOR YOUR ESTHETIC RESTORATIONS!

“SDF only visibly acts on caries lesions (ie. actively demineralizing areas) of enamel and dentin; all surrounding ‘sound’ tooth structure will remain cosmetically unaffected by silver precipitation.

Also, it bears remembrance that most active caries lesions, especially those that are cavitated and into dentin, are already quite discolored by the disease process – SDF simply makes a brownish existing dentin surface slightly darker. And finally, of course, SDF-treated lesions can be restored quite esthetically with resin composite (or other material of choice), making any signs of dentin darkening ‘disappear’.”

RYAN L. QUOCK, DDS



Before SDF



After SDF



After Restoration