

# Cavities are contagious



Babies are not born with this bacteria and can “catch” it from others. It is often Mom who passes the bacteria to her children without knowing it. Some common ways the infection gets passed are:

- Allowing the child to put fingers in an adults mouth.
- Sharing cups, spoons or straws.
- By putting a pacifier in their own mouth to “clean it”—then in the mouth.

CAUTION- If you change Dentists tell your new Dentist that you have started the Silver Diamine Fluoride treatment. If your new dentist has questions about the treatment they can go to:

[www.AdvantageDental.com](http://www.AdvantageDental.com)  
or phone 866-268-9631.



ADVANTAGE DENTAL EDUCATION SERIES

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MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF CARIES

## ARREST DECAY WITH SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE



### CAVITIES & GERMS

Cavities are holes in the teeth caused by germs. The germs live on your teeth and like to use the sugar in your food to make acid that eats the teeth—just like the acid in the battery of your car. If you don't get these holes taken care of, they will get bigger and bigger. People who have lots of these germs in their mouth will keep getting cavities.

## Why Choose the Medical Management of Caries Method?

- There are billions of germs in the mouth hiding in every place you could imagine.
- When a filling is placed in an infected mouth it is possible that the germs will continue to create the acid that eat teeth, because the cavity causing germs are still living in your mouth—even under the filling!
- The 'drill and fill' method is the most common method to treat teeth with cavities. But there is another way Advantage Dental wants to help you control the infection without needles or drills, by putting medicine on the tooth first.

## Medical Management of Caries

- Control the cavity causing germs with medicine.
- Fix the cavity/scar.
- No shots!

## What Happens If I Choose the Medical Management of Caries?

If you choose the Medical Management of Caries method you may need to see your dental team 2-4 times during the year. (more appointments may be necessary if teeth need to be filled). During the appointments, medicine will be placed on the tooth infection (cavity). This procedure is painless.

There will be a small dark scar that shows where the infection used to be (healthy teeth will not scar). Your dentist may decide that you need a filling to keep the tooth healthy. If the scar is showing when you smile, a tooth colored filling can be placed. These fillings can sometimes be done without any shots. Stopping the infections in all of your teeth, will make it less likely that you will get new cavities.

By choosing the Medical Management of Caries method your dental team will:

- Stop the infection in the tooth
- Stop the cavity from growing
- Help the tooth to heal on its own



The medicine is put directly on the cavity.



After treatment there will be a small dark scar on the tooth.



You have an option of getting a tooth colored filling. The best part is you may never have to get a shot!

Only the decay will turn dark, healthy teeth will not.

### The Progression of Color Change



TIME 0

1 DAY

1 WEEK

BEFORE



AFTER

