Silver Nitrate Protocol
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The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Indian Health Service.
Challenges and Barriers to Care

- Diet and oral hygiene
- Limited access to specialty services
- Parents with uncontrolled dental disease
- Young children with rampant caries and treatment anxiety
- Complex family structures
- Geographic isolation
Combating Caries: PI Projects and ECC Initiative

• More visits for children through age 2
  • 140% increase in exams
  • 300% increase in treatment completion
• Fluoride treatments at every visit
• More glass ionomer sealants
• More interim therapeutic restorations (295% increase)
Silver Nitrate as an option

- Present operative and non-operative treatment methods
- Obtain informed consent
- Recommend a protocol of applications of SN/FV at 0 – 2 – 4 – 8 – 12 weeks
- **ITR/GI fill and seal for cavitations/grooves**
- Other operative/surgical care prn, some preplanned
- Schedule follow-up exams at 3 – 6 – 12 months, etc
- Database delayed
My Clinical Impressions

- Oral hygiene is an important factor in success
- Nearly all demineralizations remain stable
- Nearly all erupting teeth have demineralizations
- Most anterior smooth surfaces arrest
- Molar arrest depends on cleansable area and lack of food impaction
- Works best in the younger patients with smaller lesions
- Follow up X-rays are still finding caries -- some show progression and some do not
- Even without full arrest, caries *feels* altered
The Ups........

- Silver nitrate in conjunction with ITR can be effective
- Demineralizations tend to remain static
- Cooperation generally improves and anxiety generally decreases
- Delaying GA can be beneficial
- Parents seem pleased, few find appearance too objectionable
- Good place for Hall crowns
Restorative/surgical care is still needed
Not all lesions arrest
Radiographic decay is found at subsequent exams
Adherence to protocol regimen is challenging
Poor oral hygiene
Seven children discontinued protocol
  Three children became OR cases with hygiene and adherence issues
  Two just failed to keep appointments
  Two moved from area
Silver Nitrate: Another Tool in the Toolkit

- Just over 1 year of silver nitrate
- Useful in conjunction with restorative and surgical care
- Beneficial in delaying full mouth rehabs (OR)
- Some still choose traditional care only (esthetics/time/transportation)
- Some will *need* traditional care depending upon protocol outcome or future interproximal caries
- Parents happy with another option
Thank you