**PRODUCT EVALUATION**

**Q&A | FROM THE PODIUM | EARLY ADOPTERS | WHY USE**

**SDI NORTH AMERICA**

**Riva Star**

Offers immediate sensitivity relief and the benefits of silver diamine fluoride—without the risk of staining teeth

"I think I have finally found my long-lasting solution to sensitivity," declared hygienist Amber Metro-Sanchez, who experienced "very pleasing results" when she applied SDI’s Riva Star to her own teeth, which had been "sensitive for years and nothing seemed to help." Metro-Sanchez and several other hygienists and dentists recently tested Riva Star in their practices for this DPS evaluation and discovered that it’s an easy-to-use system that offers instantaneous relief from tooth sensitivity.

Containing silver, iodide, and fluoride, Riva Star provides immediate in-office sensitivity relief with its key ingredients, potassium iodide (KI) and silver diamine fluoride (SDF). Unlike other SDF-based systems, Riva Star’s 3-step globally patented procedure minimizes the risk of staining the tooth black. By applying the KI solution over the SDF, a silver iodide precipitate is formed that does not stain teeth, a common occurrence when using other SDF treatments alone. This process results in an aesthetically pleasing tooth-colored appearance while immediately relieving tooth sensitivity.

**Ease of Use**

With a convenient, color-coded capsule system and coordinating color-coded brushes, Riva Star is designed for ease of use and time savings. Unlike bottled SDF, the capsules prevent spillage, reducing the potential for staining surfaces or wasting material. William Lieberman, a pediatric dentist who tried Riva Star, said his favorite features were the excellent packaging and the delivery system: each capsule is clearly marked: Step 1 (SDF) and Step 2 (KI) and can treat up to 10 teeth per container, simply dispose of the capsules and brushes after use.

"It was very easy to apply and turned black immediately so I could visualize the decay," said Dr. Victoria Spindel Rubin. Metro-Sanchez, who suggested that the odor of the SDF could be more pleasant, told DPS, "I love the way the silver and green capsules are labeled 1 and 2. It makes it so easy for me to remember the application order." Praising Riva Star for its ease of use and effectiveness, yet acknowledging its technique sensitivity, Dr. Cynthia Leung suggested that SDI include a liquid dam to prevent irritation to surrounding tissues.

**Sensitivity Relief**

By combining silver, iodide, and fluoride, Riva Star not only provides an immediate desensitizing effect, it can also prevent hypersensitivity for up to 2 years, according to SDI, who calls it a "new generation desensitizer." A 2019 study of 60 adult patients with abrasions and recessions that are sensitive to touch, cold, or sweets, said Dr. Leung, explaining that her goal is to address these mild issues without having to bond with resin. "Riva Star is the only product that seems to address this issue immediately," she said. Hygienist Linda Bell agreed that Riva Star "works great." and said she would like to re-evaluate each patient after 2 months to assess the long-term desensitizing effect.

**Versatility**

Although SDF has not yet been approved in the United States as an anticaries treatment, it has been successfully registered and used as an anticaries agent in several countries. Riva Star's antimicrobial properties assist in the elimination of biofilm by inhibiting its formation, and may help preserve tooth structure and prevent caries, according to SDF. It also reportedly enhances bond strengths of glass ionomer cements when bonding to dentin. By employing its SMART technique, practitioners only need to use a soft cure glass ionomer directly over the treated area.

"SMART restorations have become a big part of pediatric dentistry," and this product helps us get a better esthetic result," said Dr. Lieberman. He went on to say, "We were able to avoid local anesthesia and use mostly hand instruments for the SMART restoration in an apprehensive child." Dr. Spindel Rubin said, "It helped at crown margins and subgingival areas that would be nonrestorable [in patients who couldn't have an extraction]." She explained that a patient with root caries under a No. 14 crown "is having it extracted but didn't have the money for a partial, so we used the SDF to slow the decay until her finances improve."

**Overall Satisfaction**

One of many evaluators who said they would recommend Riva Star to colleagues, Dr. Spindel Rubin said, "It's easy to use and helpful in patients who won't get treatment immediately." Dr. Leung pointed out, "It's a good feeling when a product can be predictable and can be offered with confidence." Summing up her experience with Riva Star, Metro-Sanchez said, "It's so easy to use and has so many applications. I really do think every dental office should take advantage of this amazing product." She added, "I think this product can help change the perception of a dental practice as a whole."

**PRODUCT EVALUATION SNAPSHOT**

CRITERIA BASED ON AVERAGE SCORE OUT OF 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ease of application/placement</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working time — Step 1 silver SDF</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working time — Step 2 green KI</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenience of SMART technique</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esthetics — turns white does not stain after applying Step 2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate sensitivity relief (in-office day of application)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Versatility to use for multiple indications/applications</td>
<td>4.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SECTION A | AVERAGE**

4.2

**SECTION B | OVERALL SATISFACTION**

4.0

**SDI NORTH AMERICA**

**RIVA STAR**

**FINAL SCORE | AVERAGE OF SECTION B & A**

4.1