

**Abstract #63 (0346\_0513\_000077)**

**A SILVER LINING? FIRST NATIONS AND METIS VIEWS ON SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE TO TREAT EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES**

**Frances Chartrand**, Manitoba Metis Federation; **Robert Schroth**, University of Manitoba; **Michael Moffatt**, University of Manitoba; **Grace Kyoon-Achan**, University of Manitoba; **Rhonda Campbell**, First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba; **Julianne Sanguins**, Manitoba Metis Federation; **Daniella Demare**, University of Manitoba; **Melina Sturym**, University of Manitoba; **Jeanette Edwards**, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

**Background:**

Early Childhood Caries (ECC) continues to be the leading reason for pediatric dental surgery in Canada and is particularly prevalent among Indigenous children. Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) offers an alternative method to non-restoratively manage caries. However, before SDF can be implemented with Indigenous populations it is important to determine their views on and receptivity towards SDF.

**Objective:**

We present Indigenous community members' views and receptivity to SDF as an alternative to restorative surgery.

**Methods:**

Focus groups and sharing circles congruent with Indigenous ways of gathering information were used to engage eight groups of First Nation and Metis communities in three rural Indigenous communities and one metropolitan setting in Manitoba, Canada. Overall, 59 individuals participated. Open coding data analysis was conducted to determine emerging themes. Data was thereafter uploaded to Nvivo 12™ software for further coding and thematic analysis.

**Results:**

Respondents considered SDF in the context of treatment under general anesthesia (GA). Many expressed fear and distress at the pain that their children experienced after dental surgery, or other associated complications. They also expressed concern over the black staining of lesions following treatment, product efficacy and possible cost but many said they would be willing to try the treatment. Community acceptance is contingent on having more information and assurance that the treatment would prevent infection and the need for surgery under GA.

**Conclusion:**

Indigenous communities in Manitoba are open to SDF treatment for their children, but some are concerned about the black staining of treated lesions. Providing more information on the safety, efficacy, affordability of SDF and the understanding that stained teeth will eventually fall out, all inform parents' attitudes towards SDF treatment. SDF may hold much promise as a minimally invasive option to manage ECC, but a cautious and informative approach to implementation in Indigenous communities is needed.