

THE DENTAL ADVISOR

TM

"Improved Patient Care Through Research"



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Desensitizers

Q *What is dentin hypersensitivity, and what are the treatment options?*

A *Dentin hypersensitivity* is a transient, sharp dentinal pain of rapid onset due to thermal, evaporative, tactile, osmotic, or chemical stimuli. Today, dentin hypersensitivity is more common as a result of longer retention of teeth and greater root surface exposure due to gingival recession.

Treatment Options

Office

- Stannous fluoride applied in a tray or burnished into the tooth
- 5% sodium fluoride varnish
- Ferric and potassium oxalate – easily applied, no surface preparation
- Bonding agents

Home

- Desensitizing toothpastes – fluoride enhances remineralization
- Potassium nitrate (found in toothpastes or available in a gel form provided by the dentist for home use in custom trays) – penetrates through the tubules, depolarizes the nerve and prevents repolarization
- Mouthrinse – chlorhexidine (0.12%) followed by sodium fluoride (0.2%) or 3% potassium nitrate/0.2% sodium fluoride

Clinical Notes

- Low dietary pH (wines, citrus fruit juices, apple juice, fruit yogurts) may play a role in removing cementum and opening dentinal tubules.
- Plaque retention on exposed root surfaces may prevent natural closure of dentinal tubules.
- Open tubules may allow bacteria and their toxins to reach the pulp and lower pain thresholds.
- Vigorous brushing with coarse bristles contributes to gingival recession, loss of tooth structure and dentin hypersensitivity.
- Twenty-five percent of tooth bleaching cases report dentin hypersensitivity – lower levels of carbamide peroxide (10-15%) report less sensitivity. ■

THE DENTAL ADVISOR Recommends:

Admira Protect SingleDose (96%), Health-Dent DESENSITIZER (95%), Zarosen (95%), Systemp.desensitizer (94%), Hemaseal & Cide (92%), Duraphat (91%), Gluma Desensitizer (91%)

Product	Company	Active Ingredient	Cost/ml	Clinical Rating
ADMIRA PROTECT SINGLEDOSE	VOCO GMBH	HEMA, Fluoride, Ormocer	\$18.85 UD, \$1.50 MD	96%
D/SENSE CRYSTAL	CENTRIX	Potassium Nitrate, Calcium Oxalate	\$6.66 MD	86%
DURAFLOX SODIUM FLUORIDE VARNISH	MEDICOM	Sodium Fluoride	—	89%
DURAPHAT	COLGATE ORAL PHARMACEUTICALS	Sodium Fluoride	\$2.60 MD	91%
GEL-KAM DENTINBLOC	COLGATE ORAL PHARMACEUTICALS	Sodium Fluoride & Stannous Fluoride	\$1.00 UD	87%
GLUMA DESENSITIZER	HERAEUS KULZER	Glutaraldehyde	\$21.67 UD, \$19.37 MD	91%
HEALTH-DENT DESENSITIZER	HEALTHDENT'L	Benzalkonium Chloride	\$3.70 UD, \$4.00 MD	95%
HEMASEAL & CIDE	ADVANTAGE DENTAL PRODUCTS	Chlorhexidine, HEMA	\$1.00 UD, \$8.33 MD	92%
HURRISEAL	BEUTLICH PHARMACEUTICALS	HEMA	\$3.33 MD	88%
QUELL DESENSITIZER	PENTRON CLINICAL TECHNOLOGIES	Calcium Chloride, Potassium Phosphate	\$9.99 MD	87%
SUPER SEAL	PHOENIX DENTAL	Oxalate Acid, Potassium Salt	\$10.00 MD	87%
SYSTEMP.DESENSITIZER	IVOCLAR VIVADENT	Glutaraldehyde, Maleic Acid, Polyethylene Glycol, Dimethacrylate	\$23.29 UD, \$22.04 MD	94%
ULTRAEZ	ULTRADENT	Potassium Nitrate, Fluoride	\$2.08 MD	82%
ZAROLEN	CETYLITE INDUSTRIES	Strontium Chloride	\$1.76 MD	95%

UD = unit dose, MD = multidose

*Costs are listed for comparison only and are not used to calculate the ratings; all costs shown in U.S. dollars.

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