

particularly in low resource settings whereout of pocket expenditures for oral care often cause catastrophic health expenditures. The 2021 WHO Oral Health Resolution emphasized the relevance of developing so-called “Best Buys” for oral health. The purpose of this study was to identify the cost-effectiveness of Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) and Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) as potential treatments to reduce the caries burden worldwide.

Methods:

Leaning on WHO CHOICE methodology, evidence scoping and an expert consensus were facilitated to extract model input parameters which were then fed into cost-effectiveness-analyses (CEA) for ART and SDF. The cost-effectiveness of the interventions was expressed as Cost per DALY averted.

Results:

The evidence scoping revealed relevant, information on the effectiveness and costs of ART and SDF. The CEA identified both ART and SDF to be potentially cost-efficient treatment strategies in settings with limited resources. SDF was found to provide a cost-efficient treatment alternative in settings where the comparably larger (human) resource requirements for ART cannot be met.

Conclusions:

The findings suggest that ART and SDF represent potentially cost-efficient strategies to reduce the caries burden in settings with limited resources. While ART has previously been proposed as part of WHO’s essential package of oral care, SDF could provide a comparably inexpensive treatment alternative.

Key messages:

- Untreated tooth decay (caries) is the most common global health condition and one of the largest preventable disease burdens for society.
- The CEA identified both ART and SDF to be potentially cost-efficient treatment strategies in settings with limited resources.

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Essential Medicines for Dental Caries: Cost-Effectiveness of ART and SDF

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Background:

Untreated tooth decay (caries) is the most common global health condition and one of the largest preventable disease burdens for society. It concerns both children and adults,