

Caries Control Technique (CCT)/Intermediate Restorative Technique (IRT)/Atraumatic Restorative Technique (ART)/SMART Facts:

- Has over 40 years of research supporting it
- Is a fraction of the cost of traditional fillings
- Is a “no needles” and “no drills” procedure
- Has a success rate comparable to traditional surgical fillings that cut into teeth removing tooth structure.
- ART is superior to traditional fillings because, unlike traditional fillings, ART addresses the underlying cause of the disease.
 - Glass Ionomer used for ART/SMART recharges with fluoride at every brushing with a fluoride toothpaste, thereby continuously protecting the tooth and healing tooth structure
- Because it does not require drills, it does not create aerosols that spread disease such as Covid
- Has been shown to be an effective treatment for very young children and children with special needs
- Studies show that patients are happy with this minimally invasive approach
- Research shows that ART can greatly lessen the need for:
 - Prefabricated crowns/SSC/silver crowns
 - Baby teeth root canals
 - Hospital Dentistry
 - Sedation Dentistry
- January 2018, the SC Board of Dentistry approved dental hygienists to provide ART in public health settings.
 - 41 RDHs and the faculty of the state dental hygiene programs were trained to provide SMART in 2018. For the past three years, all dental hygiene students have been taught the SMART technique as part of their curriculum.
 - Health Promotion Specialists provided this service to 6,081 children (19,119 teeth) with a cost **savings** to Medicaid of \$1.4 million vs. traditional fillings in a dental office.
 - During the same timeframe:
 - 23,185 children were either treated in a hospital or sedated at a cost of \$3.1 million that could have potentially been avoided with the use of ART
 - 37,666 children (92,598 teeth) were treated with prefabricated crowns and baby tooth root canals) at a cost of \$10.4 million. These same teeth had the potential to be treated with ART at much less cost, much less trauma for the child and millions in savings for the payers.
 - There have been NO known adverse consequences or complaints related to the delivery of ART by registered dental hygienists in SC