

MIH, Chromogenic Bacterial Staining

MOLAR-INCISOR ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA

Enamel hypoplasia is a defect in tooth enamel that results in less quantity of enamel than normal. The defect can be a small pit or so widespread that the whole tooth can be misshaped. This type of defect can cause sensitivity, may be unsightly, and may be more susceptible to dental cavities. Enamel hypoplasia typically occurs on the permanent 1st molars and permanent incisor teeth. Hypoplastic teeth are often extremely sensitive. Teeth can appear white, yellow, or brown in color with a rough or pitted surface. In some cases the quality of enamel is affected as well as the quantity of enamel. Some genetic disorders cause all teeth to have enamel hypoplasia. In addition, a disturbance in utero can cause enamel hypoplasia due to the fact that those teeth are forming during that time.



Treatment for Hypomineralization: includes placing fillings on the affected tooth, possible root canal if the demineralization reaches the nerve, and possibility of a permanent crown when the patient is of age. Fillings may need to be replaced over time since the hypomineralized tooth we that we bond to is brittle and weak. Prescription fluoride toothpaste will strengthen and alleviate sensitivity for these teeth. Medication if required.

CHROMOGENIC BACTERIAL STAINING

What is Chromogenic Bacterial Staining?

Chromogenic Bacterial Staining is extrinsic (on the outside) tooth discoloration due to stain-forming bacteria.

Does it cause cavities and is it harmful?

In most cases, it does not cause cavities and is not harmful.

Typically, this bacteria often competes with cavities causing bacteria, *Streptococcus mutans*, and children with chromogenic bacteria will not have cavities.

*** Children with Chromogenic Bacterial Staining can still have cavities.

What can be done to treat Chromogenic Bacterial Staining?

These extrinsic stainings can be treated by a thorough dental prophylaxis (cleaning). Brushing your child's teeth with a heavier grit toothpaste can also help remove the staining.

Will my child always have these black stainings?

Chromogenic stains will reduce as a child grows up. As different bacteria inhabit the mouth with age, the bacteria that causes these stains will be displaced and the stains will disappear. Typically, this occurs with the eruption of permanent teeth around age 6.

