

## Unusually Stained Teeth

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A two-year-old girl presents with black stains on her teeth. She drinks a lot of grape and raspberry juice. Her mom reports having taken an antibiotic during pregnancy, but she does not remember which drug she took.

### What is your Diagnosis?

Ingestion of dark fruit juices, such as raspberry and grape juice, can result in teeth staining, especially when there is inadequate mouth rinsing following intake. Iron supplements can also cause black stains on the teeth. Teeth stains from food do not adversely affect permanent dentition and can be removed by thorough teeth cleaning for cosmetic appeal.

Tetracyclines typically cause a yellowish tooth discolouration when exposure occurs before complete eruption of the teeth. As such, tetracyclines should be avoided in pregnancy and in young children. Nursing bottle syndrome results from prolonged exposure to sucrose-enriched fluids during sleeping hours. The mandibular teeth are usually spared because they are protected by the tongue and submandibular gland secretions. Dentinogenesis imperfecta is recognized by opalescence of the teeth, softness of the dentin, and



enamel that fractures away on exposure to forces of mastication. The colour of the teeth varies from brown to blue and is sometimes described as amber or grey.

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