



Enamel Hypoplasia

Enamel hypoplasia can be caused by several different factors. Interruption of the development of the tooth at the initial stage of enamel formation can cause discoloration of the tooth. This can be as mild as a small white spot to a severe pitted brownish yellow area in the enamel of the tooth.

Primary teeth are usually affected by some sort of sickness or abnormality in the pregnancy of the mother, prematurity or newborn health problems. Permanent teeth can be affected by injury to the primary tooth that it replaces. If the permanent tooth is in the right position when the tooth is injured it can interrupt the development and cause hypoplasia. A primary tooth that is abscessed and infected can also cause hypoplasia to a permanent tooth. The longer the infection goes untreated the greater the chance of hypoplasia. Childhood illnesses and fevers are also a major cause of hypoplasia. Occasionally, hypoplasia appears without a significant finding in the medical history.

These areas can be more prone to decay. No treatment is needed for these areas as long as they are intact and not breaking down into decay. If a molar continues to chip or decay and can not hold a filling then a stainless steel crown for full coverage would be the treatment of choice.

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