

# CAUSES OF DECIDUOUS TEETH DISCOLORATION

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## Abstract

This article discusses the causes of discoloration of deciduous teeth, their pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations. In children, discoloration of primary teeth is often associated with dental caries, trauma, genetic factors, and external influences. A deeper understanding of the etiological factors of tooth discoloration plays a crucial role in pediatric dentistry, particularly in the prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment of dental diseases in children.

**Keywords:** Deciduous teeth Discoloration Dental caries Pediatric dentistry Prevention.

## Introduction

One of the most common problems in pediatric dentistry is the discoloration of deciduous teeth, especially the darkening of their surfaces. Normally, teeth appear whitish-yellow, but under the influence of different factors, they may turn gray, brown, or black. Such changes not only cause aesthetic concerns but also serve as indicators of pathological processes such as caries, mineralization defects, or even systemic health conditions.

**1. Etiological Factors**

The discoloration of primary teeth can be caused by several factors:

1. Dental Caries – the most frequent cause in children. Demineralization of enamel and dentin results in black or brown spots.
2. Trauma – mechanical damage to the tooth may lead to pulp necrosis, causing intrinsic staining.
3. Genetic Disorders – conditions such as enamel hypoplasia or inherited mineralization defects contribute to discoloration.
4. Medications – antibiotics like tetracyclines can cause permanent discoloration if administered during tooth development.
5. Poor Oral Hygiene – accumulation of dental plaque and bacterial pigments leads to extrinsic staining.
6. Dietary Factors – excessive consumption of sweets, colored drinks, and staining foods contribute to external pigmentation.

**Clinical Manifestations**

Spot lesions – small brown or black stains on enamel. Cavity-type discoloration – early stages of carious lesions. Intrinsic staining – darkening from within the tooth due to pulp necrosis. Diffuse discoloration – generalized change in color caused by mineralization disturbances.

**Pathogenesis Mechanisms**

Demineralization of enamel and dentin due to bacterial activity. Infiltration of hemoglobin breakdown products into dentin during pulp necrosis. Deposition of pigments from dental plaque. Chromogenic effects of food and medications.

**Diagnostic Methods**

Clinical examination – visual inspection of teeth. Radiographic evaluation – useful in identifying internal staining and hidden carious lesions. Differential diagnosis – distinguishing between caries, pulp necrosis, and enamel hypoplasia.

**Treatment and Prevention**

Professional cleaning – scaling, polishing, and removal of surface stains. Remineralization therapy – fluoride and calcium-based treatments to strengthen enamel. Restorative treatment – filling cavities with composite materials.





Preventive measures: Regular dental check-ups. Balanced diet with limited sugary foods. Teaching proper oral hygiene to children from an early age. Conclusion Discoloration of deciduous teeth is one of the most frequent problems encountered in pediatric dentistry. Its causes are multifactorial, including dental caries, trauma, genetic disorders, poor oral hygiene, and the influence of medications. Early detection and management of discoloration not only restore esthetics but also ensure the healthy development of permanent dentition. Therefore, preventive dental care in children plays a key role in maintaining oral health.

