



# GREAT SMILES

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY & ORTHODONTICS

## Enamel Hypoplasia

Enamel Hypoplasia is a defect in the outer enamel layer of a tooth. The enamel is potentially discolored, thin, deficient in amount, and prone to decay. Enamel hypoplasia can be caused by several different factors. It can be genetically inherited or acquired due to trauma or sickness. Interruption of the development of the tooth at the initial stage of enamel formation can cause discoloration of the tooth. It can be as mild as a small white spot to as severe as pitted brownish-yellow areas 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 illness at a young age or injury to the primary tooth that it replaces. 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 major causes of hypoplasia. Occasionally, hypoplasia appears without a significant finding in the medical history.

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

*If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office.*



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