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What is tetracycline?

Tetracycline is used to treat a wide variety of infections, including acne. It is an antibiotic that works by stopping the growth of bacteria. This antibiotic treats only bacterial infections. It will not work for viral infections such as common cold and flu.

Side effects of tetracycline

- ▶ Tetracycline teeth stains develop on permanent teeth while they are still forming under the gum line. During development, the drug becomes calcified in the tooth, generating tetracycline tooth stains. Children are susceptible to tetracycline tooth stains from the time they are in utero until the age of 8. Since teeth start to develop before we're even born, pregnant women should not take tetracycline to prevent the possibility of the drug affecting the unborn baby's oral health.

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- ▶ Gray or brown in color, appears in light, moderate or severe discoloration of the teeth. As the antibiotic becomes chemically bound to the dentin for the life of the tooth, and because of the transparency of overlying enamel, this stain is easily visible. Although harmless, tetracycline stains are obvious and permanent, often causing embarrassment and low self-esteem in those who suffer from them.

Light tetracycline stain



Moderate tetracycline stain



Severe tetracycline stain



Whitening procedure



Stains

- ▶ Removing tetracycline stain is not an easy job. Unlike common stains caused by food, drinks and smoking, tetracycline stains can't be erased by a professional dental cleaning.

Cover up

- ▶ However, there are some options for those who suffer from tetracycline stains. Whitening can be performed when the patient has a light stain. Therefore, better results can be obtained. Veneers are used to cover stained teeth in the front of the mouth but if the stain is severe, crowns are more suitable for those cases.

Who should NOT take Tetracycline

- ▶ Pregnant or breast-feeding should not take it.
- ▶ Kids under 12 years of age should not take it.
- ▶ Someone whose had an allergic reaction to a medication.
- ▶ People with liver or kidneys problems.
- ▶ People taking another medication.

References

- ▶ <https://patient.info/medicine/tetracycline-tablets>
- ▶ ILLUSTRATED DENTAL EMBRYOLOGY, HISTOLOGY, AND ANATOMY
Fourth Edition, Fehrenbach, Popowics, Elsevier/Saunders, Missouri