

DENTAL

HINTS

Brought to the Community by
Spurgeon W. Webber D.D.S.
Special to the Post



Dr. Webber

Problem Of Discoloration

Are some teeth just naturally darker in shade than others, even in the same mouth? Yes, it is sometimes inherited, but many other factors can enter into the cause.

Of course, the use of tobacco is well-known in its discoloration of the teeth and, aside from things we use purposely, accidents causing hard impacts to teeth are one of the most prevalent causes. First the damaged tooth will turn pink, then brown, and eventually can go on to black. The nerve sometimes dies and then it becomes necessary to remove the nerve, through root canal treatment, the method most acceptable - depending on the case - in saving the tooth and appearance. Discoloration from blood in the tooth, usually following an impact, almost never goes away by itself. In such cases, a process called "bleaching" is often a very efficient and effective solution to the problem of discoloration.

Bleaching is done by stimulating oxygen into the tooth. The vehicle is usually a 30 percent solution of hydrogen peroxide and heat. The tooth is covered with cotton soaked in the peroxide solution. The oxygen is freed from the peroxide by the heat and it goes into the tooth and lightens the color. The process can be done on a weekly treatment schedule until the desired result is achieved.

There is another technique called the photoflood, in which a lamp is placed a short distance from the teeth under treatment, with the patient's face covered. The cotton-moistened teeth are exposed to the heat and light for about five minutes, and this can be repeated until the desired shade is reached.

Teeth that have had root canal therapy usually respond better to bleaching. The dentist can seal some of the solution into the tooth to help the bleaching between visits.

Bleaching teeth discolored by drug use has proved to be more difficult, but the type of drugs (legitimate) that have caused tooth discoloration are now guarded against with greater care than in the past. Bleaching in such cases, though a longer process, can be quite satisfactory and effective.

Bleaching done properly does not damage teeth. However, where children are involved, it is not attempted until over the age of ten, as teeth have not reached full development.

Talk to your dentists about bleaching, to find out if it may be applicable in your case, where discoloration is a problem.

"WKRP In Cincinnati"

The WKRP staff becomes disgruntled when Herb Tarlek starts selling insurance on the job and ropes depressed newsman Les Nessman into buying enough coverage for six men, on "WKRP in Cincinnati," to be rebroadcast Saturday, September 13 at 8 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Just when Herb is beginning to think that his sideline insurance business is a snap, Les appears shaken and in complete disarray to report that he has made a most bizarre accident.

"Incredible Hulk"

Banner is recruited to help fight a forest fire and is suspected by the other firefighters of being the one who set the blaze, on "The Incredible Hulk," to be rebroadcast Friday, September 12 at 8 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Banner is saved from a forest fire and then drafted to help put out the fire. With McGee on the scene, and under suspicion of starting the fire, it takes The Hulk to save his alter ego after he is trapped on the fireline with a female firefighter who also is trying to overcome the prejudice and superstitions of the other fighters.

"Dukes Of Hazzard"

With one body missing and another stolen, the Dukes have their hands full trying to prove that they're not body snatchers, on "The Dukes of Hazzard," to be rebroadcast Friday, September 12 at 9 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3. Series star Denver Pyle directed the episode.

It looks as though a con man's deception to escape Boss Hogg's wrath will be discovered as Hogg builds a road through the cemetery where he is supposed to be buried. The Dukes try to help the reformed crook keep his secret, but when he steals a body from the morgue to claim as his own, the Dukes are accused of taking it.

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