

What is Blue Baby Syndrome?

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About Blue Baby Syndrome:

- Blue baby syndrome, also called **cyanosis**, is **a condition in babies** in which their **skin appears blue or purple tinged**.
- **What causes blue baby syndrome?**
 - The baby takes on a bluish hue **because of poorly oxygenated blood**.
 - Normally, blood is pumped from the heart to the lungs, where it receives oxygen.
 - The blood is circulated back through the heart and then throughout the body.
 - When there's a problem with the heart, lungs, or blood, blood may not be oxygenated properly.
 - This causes the skin to take on a blue color.
 - The lack of oxygenation can **occur for several reasons**.
- It can occur due to **several congenital (meaning present at birth) heart defects or environmental or genetic factors**.
- **Acquired methemoglobinemia is more common** than the congenital form. It can be caused **by exposure to a variety of substances** and by some health conditions.
- The **most common cause** of blue baby syndrome is **water contaminated with nitrates**.

- **Symptoms:**

- The most common symptom of blue baby syndrome is a **blue discoloration** of the **skin around the mouth, hands, and feet**.
- Other potential symptoms of blue baby syndrome include:
 - difficulty breathing
 - vomiting
 - diarrhea
 - lethargy
 - increased salivation
 - loss of consciousness
 - seizures

- **In severe cases**, blue baby syndrome can **even cause death**.

- **Treatment:**

- Treatment will **vary depending on what is causing** the baby to turn blue.
 - **If congenital heart disease is causing** the discoloration, **surgery may be required** to correct the abnormalities.
 - **Children with a more severe form** of the condition may **need a medication called methylene blue**, which a doctor will give as an injection.
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Q1: What is methylene blue?

Methylene blue (MB) is a synthetic dye and medication with various scientific, medical, and industrial applications.

Source: [CNBC](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/blue-baby-syndrome/>

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