

in older rental homes where lead decontamination may not be a priority. Nurses are often in a position to observe or elicit information about these practices and educate families about their potential harm.

Cultural Considerations

Sources of Lead

In some cultures, the use of traditional ethnic remedies that contain lead may increase children's risk of lead poisoning. These remedies include:

Azarcon (Mexico): For digestive problems; a bright orange powder; usual dose is 0.25 to 1 tsp, often mixed with oil, milk, or sugar or sometimes given as a tea; sometimes a pinch is added to a baby bottle or tortilla dough for preventive purposes

Greta (Mexico): A yellow-orange powder used in the same way as azarcon

Paylooah (Southeast Asia): Used for rash or fever; an orange-red powder given as 0.5 tsp straight or in a tea

Surma (India and Pakistan): Black powder used as a cosmetic and as teething powder

Unknown ayurvedic (Tibet): Small, gray-brown balls used to improve slow development; two balls are given orally three times a day

Tamarind jellied, fruit candy (Mexico): Fruit candy packaged in paper wrappers that contain high lead levels

Lozeena (Iraq): A bright orange powder used to color meat and rice

Litargirio (Dominican Republic): Yellow or peach colored powder used as a folk remedy and as an antiperspirant/deodorant

Ba-Baw-San (China): Herbal medicine used to treat colic pain