A 30-month-old boy presented with yellowish discolouration of the nose (figure 1), for 4 months. He was born prematurely at 32 weeks gestation with atrial and ventricular septal defects; both repaired in March 2009. Also has asthma and gastro-oesophageal reflux. He is on erythromycin 16 mg four times a day, omeprazole 5 mg once daily, flexitide 50 2 puffs twice daily, pharmaton 7.5 mls once daily and fortini milk 500 mls a day. On examination, he looks well, sclera is white and the soles of the feet were slightly yellow. He eats a regular diet of sweet potato 75 mg once or twice daily as estimated by dietitian. This contains at least 3000–6000 IU of β-carotene depending on the colour of sweet potato. The Fortini milk and squash also contains β-carotene but to a lesser extent.

Blood investigations revealed high serum β-carotene levels and slightly raised aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine transaminase (ALT) levels but blood sugar, rest of liver function test, vitamin A level and thyroid function test were normal. The mother received dietary advice to avoid excessive intake of carotene. Whether the slightly raised AST and ALT is related to the high β-carotemia or his medication is not known but the liver function test will be repeated after resolution of β-carotenemia. β-carotenemia is a benign condition which presents with yellow discolouration of the skin due to increased intake of β-carotene.1

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**Patient consent** Obtained.

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