

JAUNDICE

AN OVERVIEW

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Jaundice (also called icterus) is a yellow discolouring of the skin, mucous membranes, and eyes, caused by too much bilirubin in the blood.

(Picture below - Signs of Severe Jaundice)



Persons with jaundice may also have nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, and may pass dark urine. Jaundice is a symptom of many disorders, including liver diseases, biliary obstruction, and the hemolytic anemias.

(Picture below - Yellow tint in sclera indicative of Jaundice)



Newborns often develop physiological jaundice, which resolves after a few days. Rarer disorders causing jaundice are Crigler-Najjar syndrome and Gilbert's syndrome. Useful diagnostic procedures include tests of liver function, visualization on x-ray films, CAT scan, ultrasound, endoscopy or exploratory surgery, and biopsy

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