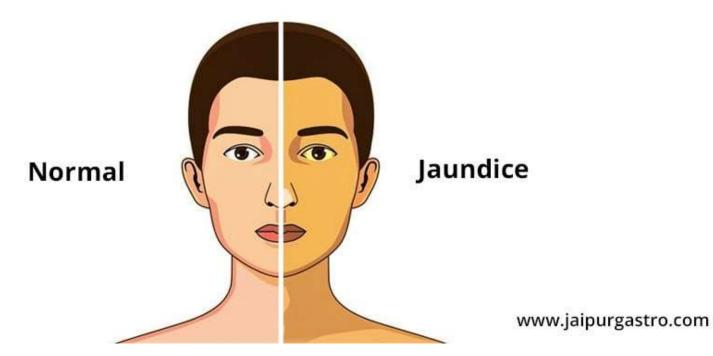


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INTRODUCTION

- Jaundice also known as icterus, is a yellowish or greenish pigment of the skin and sclera due to high bilirubin level in blood.
- Normal level of bilirubin: 1.0 mg/dl
- Hyperbilirubinemia: 2-3 mg/dl.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

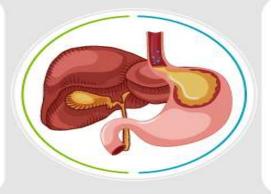
- Jaundice in adults is rare.
- Under the five year DISCOVERY programme in the UK, annual incidence of jaundice was 0.74 per 1000 individuals over age 45.
- Jaundice is commonly associated with severity of disease with an incidence of up to 40% of patients requiring intensive care in ICU experiencing jaundice.

SYMPTOMS



CAUSES

- Acute inflammation of liver
- Inflammation of the bile duct
- Obstruction of the bile duct
- Hemolytic anemia
- Gilbert's syndrome



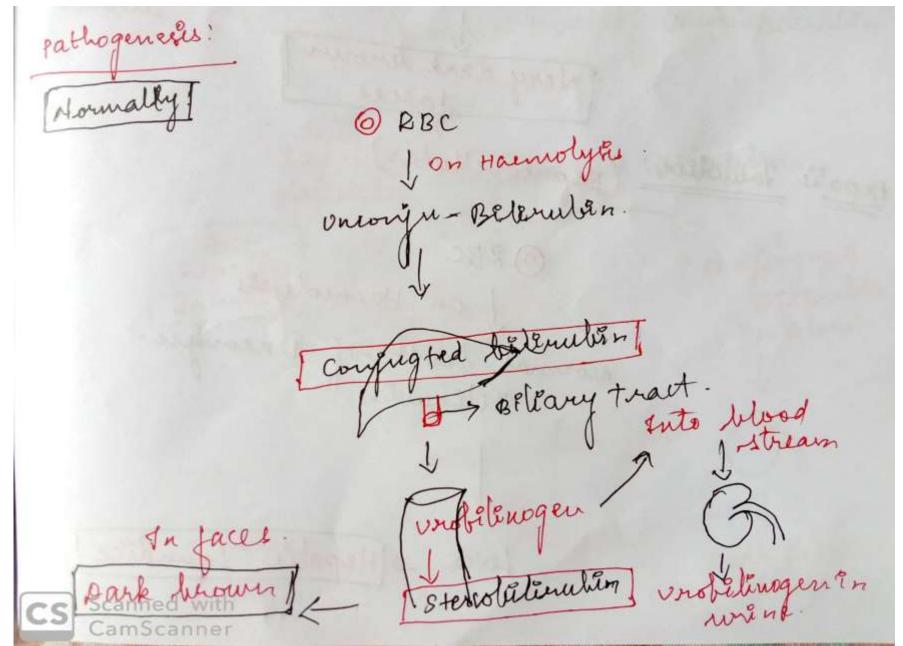
SYMPTOMS

- Itchiness
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Paler than usual stool
- Fatigue
- Dark urine

ETIOLOGY

- Pre-hepatic/hemolytic: The pathology occurs prior to the liver metabolism, due to either intrinsic causes to red blood cell rupture or extrinsic causes to red blood cell rupture.
- Hepatic/hepatocellular: The pathology is due to damage of parenchymal liver cells.
- Post-hepatic/cholestatic: The pathology occurs after bilirubin conjugation in the liver, due to obstruction of the biliary tract and/or decreased bilirubin excretion.

PATHOGENESIS



Pre hepatic causes

- Pre-hepatic jaundice is most commonly caused by a pathological increased rate of red blood cell (erythrocyte) hemolysis.
- The increased breakdown of erythrocytes → increased unconjugated serum bilirubin → increased deposition of unconjugated bilirubin into mucosal tissue.
- The following diseases may cause jaundice due to increased erythrocyte hemolysis:
- Sickle cell anemia
- Thalassemia
- Pyruvate kinase deficiency
- Haemolytic anemia.

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Hepatic causes

- Hepatic jaundice is caused by abnormal liver metabolism of bilirubin.
- The major causes of hepatic jaundice are significant damage to hepatocytes — due to infectious, drug/medication-induced, auto-immune etiology — or, less commonly, due to inheritable genetic diseases.
- The following is a non-exhaustive list of hepatic causes to jaundice:
- Acute and chronic hepatitis
- Hepatotoxicity
- Drug induced hepatitis
- Alcoholic liver disease
- Cirrhosis

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Post hepatic causes

- Post-hepatic jaundice (obstructive jaundice), is caused by a blockage of bile ducts which transport bile containing conjugated bilirubin out of the liver for excretion.
- The following is a list of conditions that can cause post-hepatic jaundice:
- Acute and chronic pancreatitis
- Choledocholithiasis
- Biliary atresia
- Pancreatic cancer
- Cholangitis

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DIAGNOSIS

- Bilirubin test
- Viral test for hepatitis
- Liver function test
- Blood count
- Abdominal CT scan
- Abdominal Ultrasound
- Liver biopsy
- Cholesterol level estimation

TREATMENT

- Iron supplements for anemia induced jaundice.
- Anti viral drugs for Hepatitis.
- Iv fluid administration
- Diet and vitamin D, K supplements.

