

Introduction

What is jaundice?

Jaundice is a condition in which the skin, sclera (whites of the eyes) and mucous membranes turn yellow. This yellow color is caused by a high level of bilirubin, a yellow-orange bile pigment. Bile is fluid secreted by the liver. Bilirubin is formed from the breakdown of red blood cells

- * The incidence of jaundice is 60%.
- * jaundice was discovered in 1875.

Causes

Bilirubin is the normal breakdown product from the catabolism of heme , and thus is formed from the destruction of red blood cells. It is caused by a problem with any of the three stages of bilirubin production .

Before the production of bilirubin:-

- Reabsorption of a large hematoma.
- hemolytic anemia

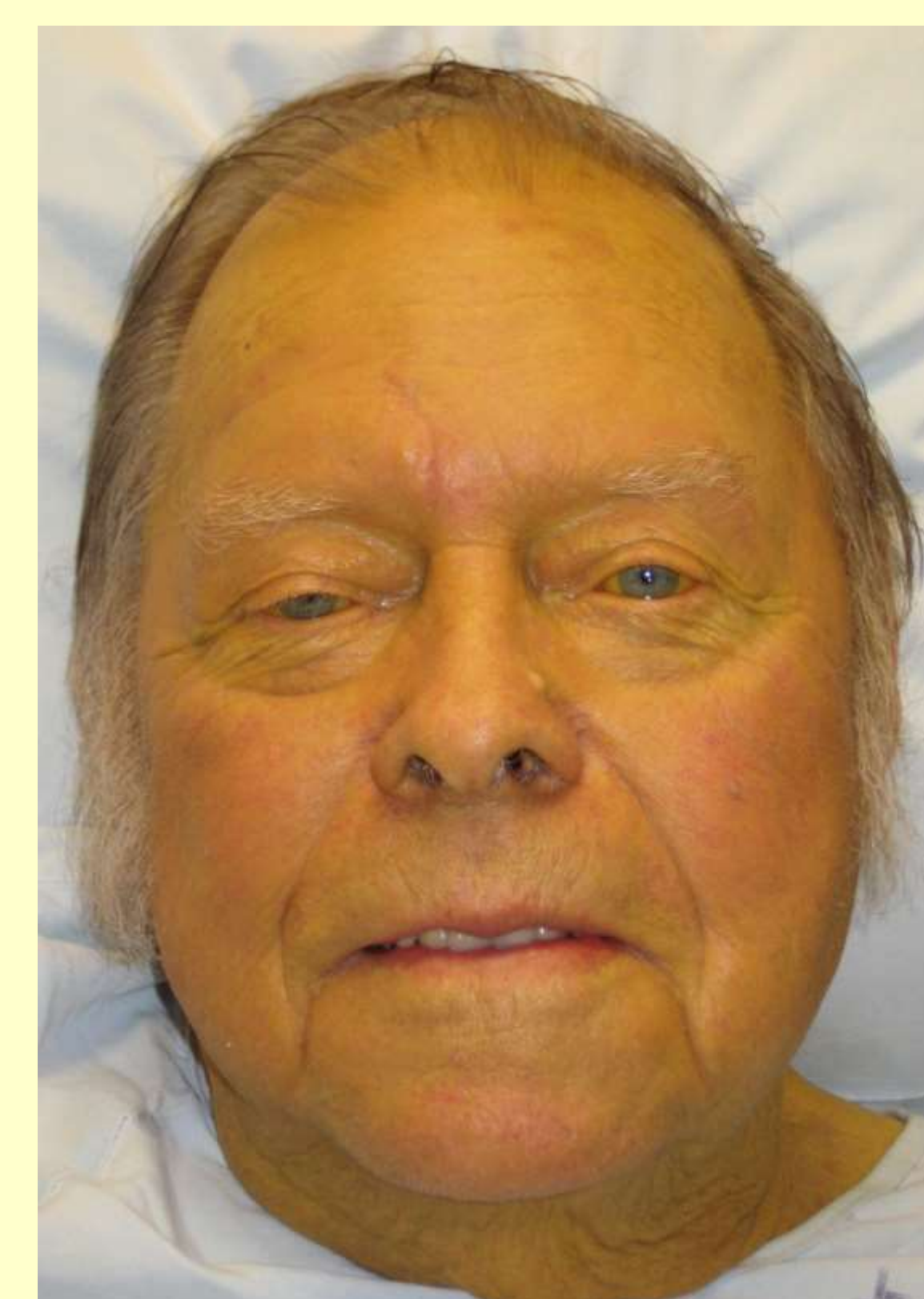
During the production of bilirubin, jaundice can be caused by:

Viruses, including hepatitis A, chronic hepatitis B and C, and viral infections

- Alcohol.
- Medications, including penicillin, oral contraceptives, and steroids
- It is also caused by blockage (obstruction) of the bile ducts:
- Gallstones ,Inflammation gallbladder or cancer , pancreatic tumor

References

- <https://teachmesurgery.com/hpb/presentations/jaundice/>
- <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/15367-adult-jaundice>



Symptoms and Types

symptoms and signs:

- Fever ,Chills , Abdominal pain, Flu-like symptoms , Change in skin color , Dark-colored urine .

Types:-

- In pre-hepatic jaundice, there is excessive red cell breakdown
- In hepatocellular jaundice, there is dysfunction of the hepatic cells.
- Post-hepatic jaundice refers to obstruction of biliary drainage.

Risk and Treatment

What is the risk of jaundice?

During the production of bilirubin, middle-aged women and men, are more affected. People who have hepatitis and drink excessive alcohol are also at increased risk

How is jaundice treated?

Jaundice usually doesn't require treatment in adults (it's a more severe problem in infants). The causes and complications of jaundice can be treated . Ex.: cholestyramine (Questran®).

some of the side effects of the treatments of jaundice?

Constipation ,Bloating ,Stomach pain , Gas , Upset stomach , Vomiting ,Diarrhea.

Summary

Can jaundice be prevented ?

Since there are many causes of jaundice , it's hard to provide specific prevention measures

- Avoid hepatitis infection.
- Stay within recommended alcohol limits.