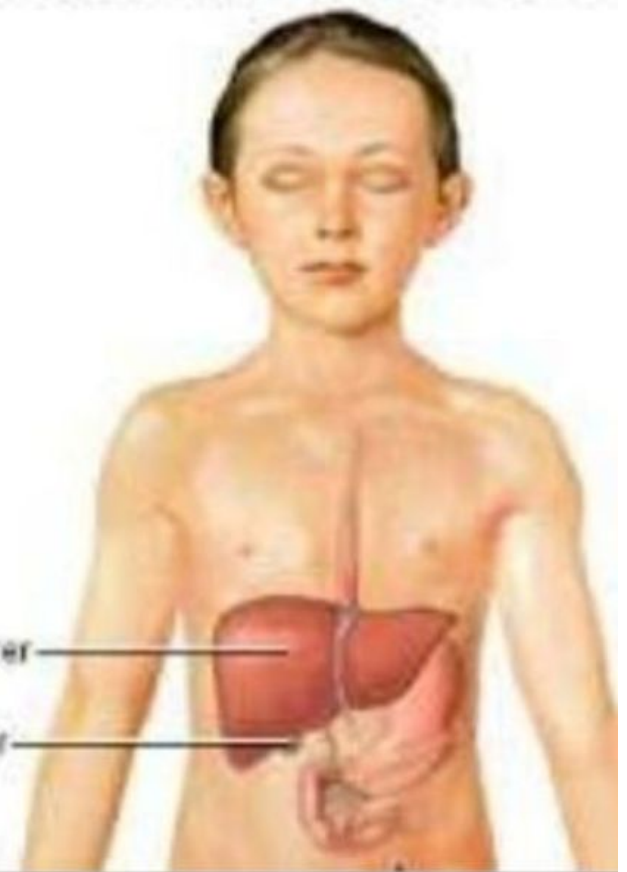


Jaundice

DEFINITION

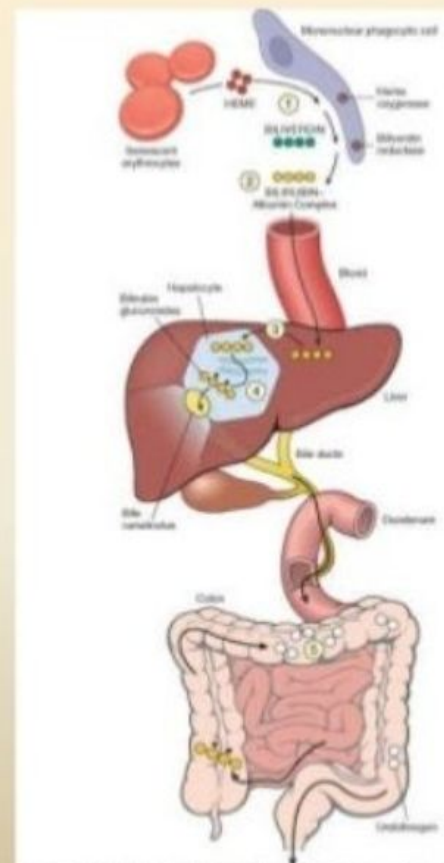
- Jaundice is yellowish discoloration of the skin, sclera and mucous membranes due to hyperbilirubinemia and deposition of bile pigments .
- Equilibrium between bilirubin production and clearance is disturbed .
- Serum bilirubin level greater than 2mg/dL
- Jaundice is not a disease, but rather a sign that can occur in many different diseases.

Yellowing is associated with the accumulation of bilirubin in the skin, most often caused by liver and gallbladder disorders

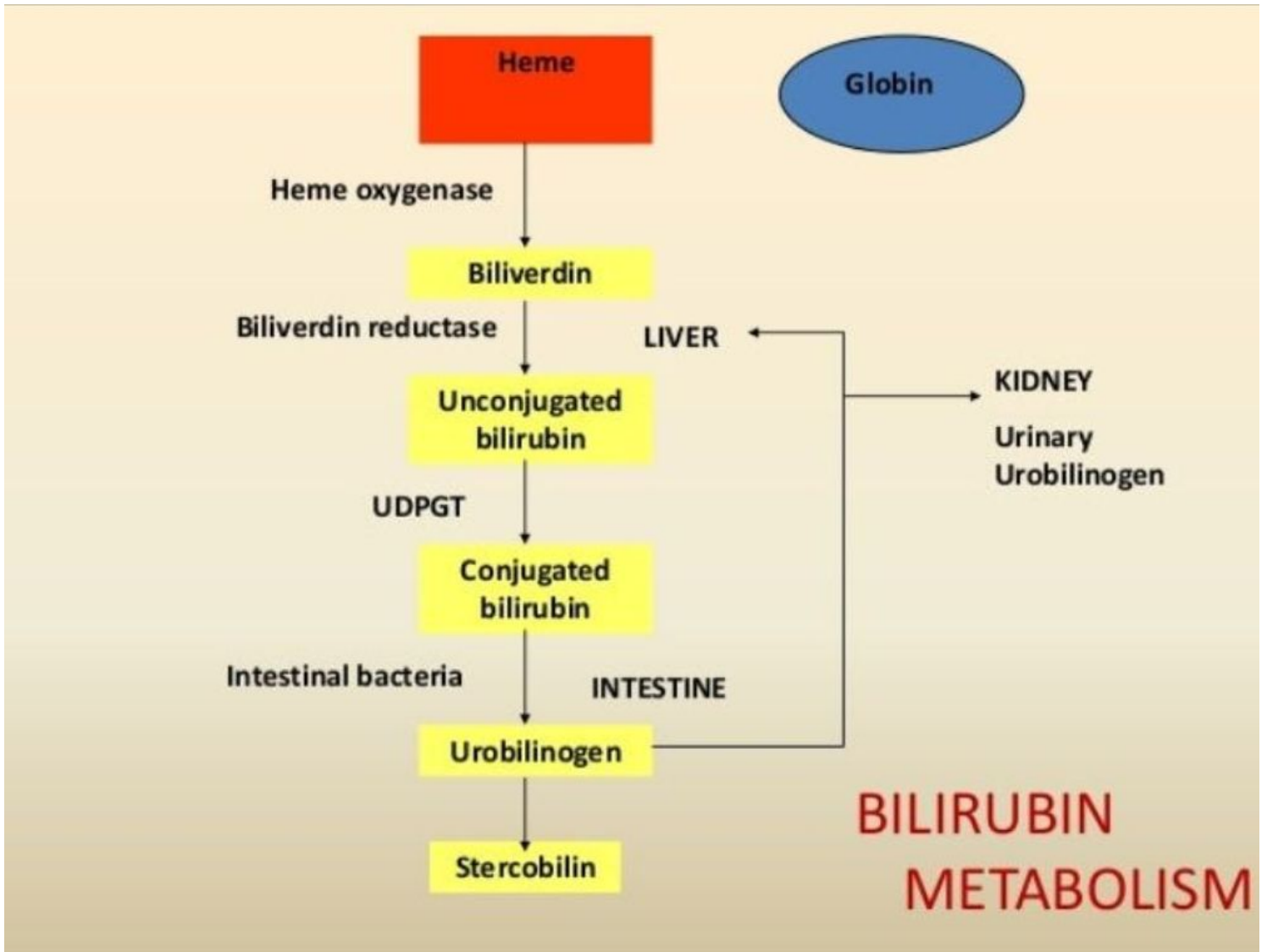


What is bilirubin?

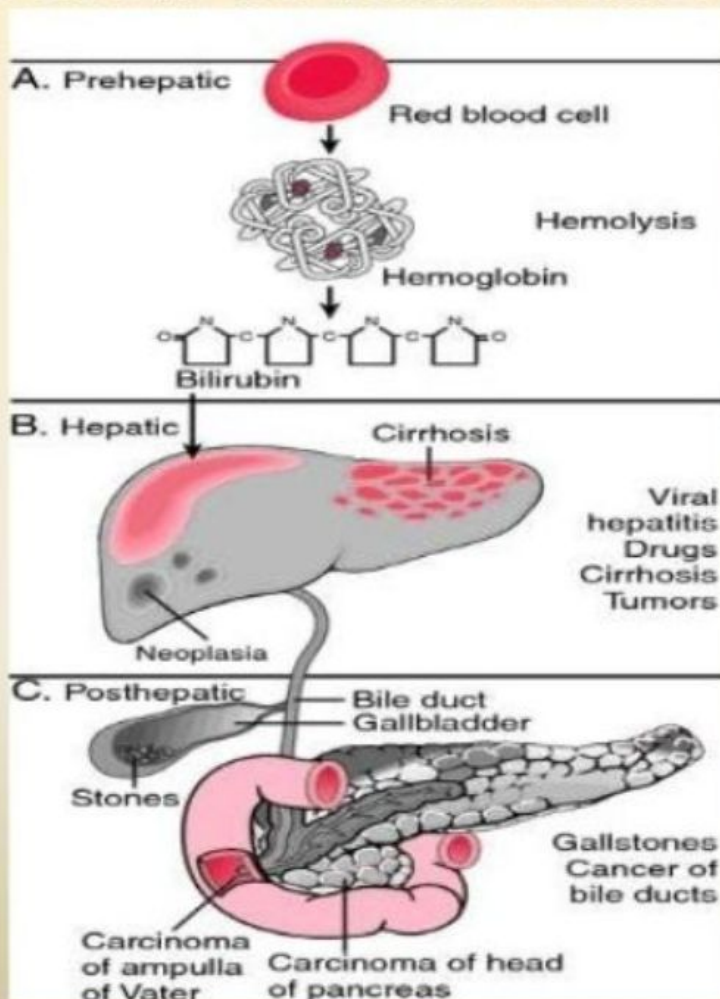
- Bilirubin is a yellowish pigment found in bile, a fluid made by the liver.
- The breakdown product of Hgb from injured RBCs and other heme containing proteins.
- Produced by reticuloendothelial system
- Released to plasma bound to albumin
- Hepatocytes conjugate it and excrete through bile channels into small intestine.



Kumar et al: Robbins & Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease, 8th Edition.



TYPES OF JAUNDICE



EPIDEMIOLOGY

The prevalence of jaundice varies with age and sex; newborns and older adults are most often affected.

Approximately 20 percent of newborns develop jaundice in the first week of life, primarily because of immaturity of the hepatic conjugation process.

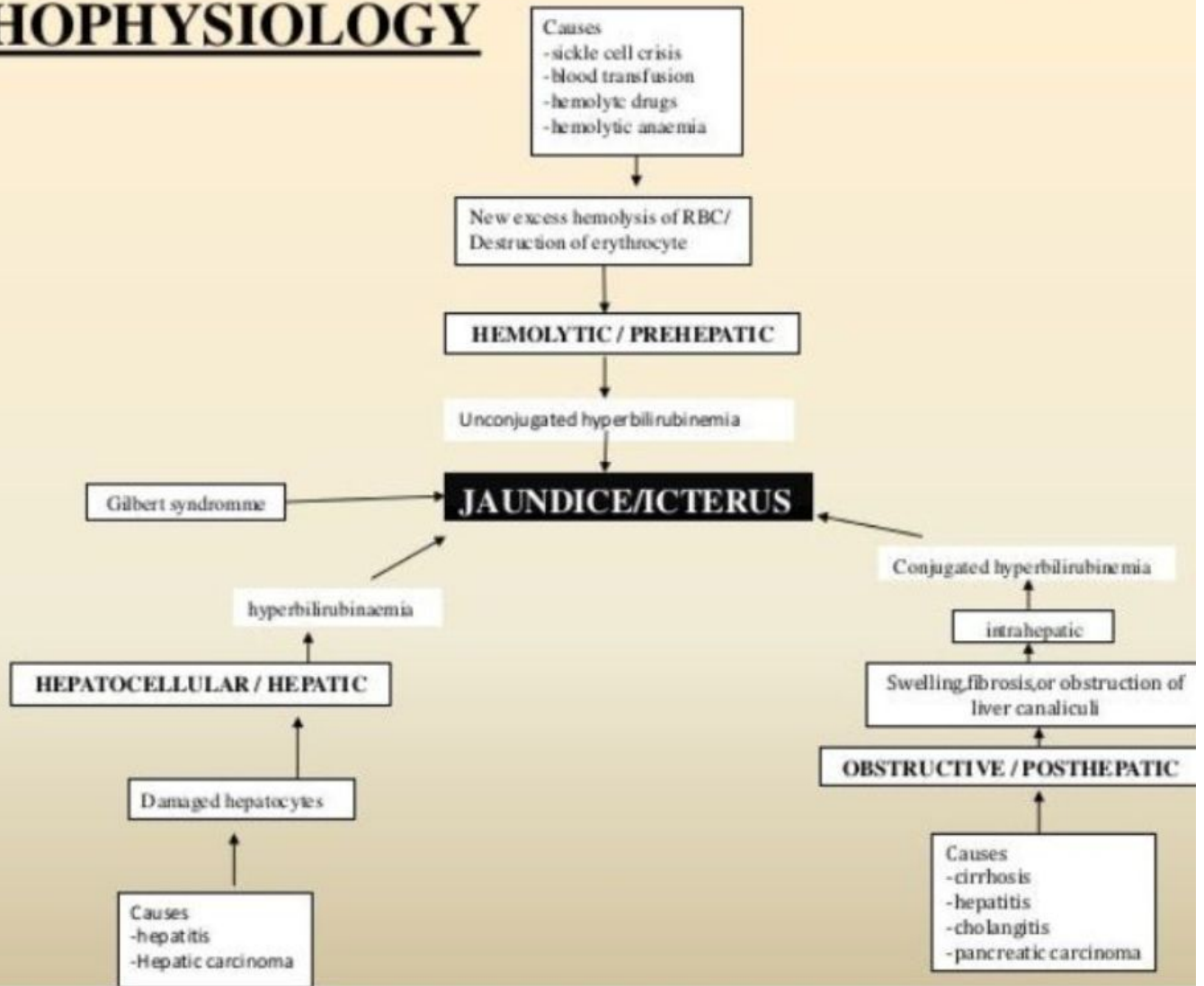
Congenital abnormalities, hemolytic or bilirubin uptake disorders, and conjugation defects are also responsible for jaundice in infancy or childhood.

Viral hepatitis A is the most frequent cause of jaundice among school-age children. Common duct stones, alcoholic liver disease and neoplastic jaundice occur in middle-aged and older patients

ETIOLOGY

- Acute inflammation of the liver
- Inflammation of the bile duct
- Obstruction of the bile duct
- Hemolytic anemia -
- Gilbert's syndrome
- Cholestasis
- Physiological jaundice
- Maternal-fetal blood group incompatibility (Rh, ABO)
- Breast milk jaundice
- Breast feeding jaundice

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY



Signs and Symptoms of Jaundice

Common signs and symptoms seen in individuals with jaundice include:

- yellow discoloration of
 1. the skin
 2. mucous membranes
 3. the whites of the eyes
- light-colored stools
- dark-colored urine
- itching of the skin.
- nausea and vomiting
- abdominal pain
- fever
- weakness
- loss of appetite
- headache
- confusion
- swelling of the legs and abdomen.



PREVENTION OF JAUNDICE

Due to the wide range of potential causes, it's not possible to prevent all cases of jaundice. However, there are four main precautions that you can take to minimise your risk of developing jaundice. They are:

1. ensuring that you stick to the recommended daily amount (RDA) for alcohol consumption
2. maintaining a healthy weight for your height and build
3. if appropriate, ensuring that you're vaccinated against a hepatitis A or B infection, vaccination would usually only be recommended depending on where in the world you're travelling .
4. minimizing your risk of exposure to hepatitis C because there's currently no vaccine for the condition .