

Medicine Hx- Gastrointestinal System

“History of jaundice”

A. Overview:

Jaundice is due to the presence of excess bilirubin being deposited in the conjunctivae and skin.

Causes of jaundice:

1. Pre-hepatic: ↑ unconjugated bilirubin – normal stool color – normal urine color.
2. Hepatic: ↑ unconjugated and conjugated bilirubin – normal stool color- dark urine color.
3. Post hepatic: ↑ conjugated bilirubin –pale stool color- dark urine color.

B. Differential diagnosis:

DDx	What support this diagnosis?
Pre-Hepatic	
Hemolysis	Risk factors: blood transfusion , sepsis, sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, G6PD deficiency. Typical Symptoms: fever, SOB, Tachycardia. Complication: pallor, splenomegaly.
Hepatic	
Viral Hepatitis	Risk factors: sexual contacts, IV abuse, travel. Typical Symptoms: Dark urine, RUQ pain, fever.
Alcoholic Liver	Risk factors: alcohol abuse. Typical Symptoms: Dark urine, weight loss, coagulopathy (bruising) Complication: esophageal varices.
Hepatotoxicity	Risk factors: herbal medication, TB drugs. Typical Symptoms: Dark urine.
Post-Hepatic	
Cholelithiasis	Risk factors: Female, Fertile, Fair, Fat, Family history. Typical Symptoms: Dark urine, Pale stool itching, RUQ biliary pain.
Cancer In The Head Of The Pancreas	Risk factors: chronic pancreatitis, smoking, Typical Symptoms: Dark urine, Pale stool itching, RUQ dull pain /painless, loss of weight and appetite.

C. Questions to Ask the Patient

Questions	What you think about ... !
HPI	
<i>How did the skin discoloration start?</i>	Sudden → Choledocholithiasis Gradual → Cancer in the head of the pancreas.
<i>Is your urine dark?</i>	Dark → hepatitis, alcoholic liver, hepatotoxicity, biliary obstruction.
<i>Is your stool pale?</i>	Pale → biliary obstruction
<i>Do you have itching?</i>	Itching → biliary obstruction.
<i>Do you have pain?</i>	Pain → Choledocholithiasis.
<i>Does the pain radiate?</i>	Right shoulder → Choledocholithiasis
<i>Characteristic of the pain</i>	Biliary → Choledocholithiasis. Dull → Cancer in the head of the pancreas.
<i>Does anything increase the pain?</i>	Fatty Food → Choledocholithiasis.
<i>Do you have fever?</i>	Fever → hepatitis, cholecystitis.
<i>Did you loss weight?</i>	Weight loss → Cancer in the head of the pancreas, alcoholic liver.
<i>Do you bruise easily?</i>	Yes → alcoholic liver.
<i>Have you had any vomiting of blood or passage of dark stools?</i>	
Past medical Hx	
<i>Have you had similar symptoms (pain)?</i>	Yes → Choledocholithiasis.
<i>Do you have sickle cell- thalassemia?</i>	Yes hemolysis.
<i>Did you have a recent blood transfusion?</i>	Yes → hemolysis.
Medication Hx	
<i>Have you started any new medications recently?</i>	TB medication → hepatotoxicity.
<i>Do you take herbal medication?</i>	Yes → hepatotoxicity.
<i>Have you been immunized against hepatitis B?</i>	
<i>Have you had any surgeries?</i>	
Family Hx	
<i>Does anybody in the family have similar symptoms?</i>	Yes hepatitis.
Social Hx	
<i>Do you drink alcohol /how much?</i>	Yes → alcoholic liver.
<i>Have you ever used IV drugs?</i>	Yes → hepatitis.
<i>Have you ever had high-risk sexual behavior?</i>	Yes → hepatitis.
<i>Have you traveled recently? (to areas where hepatitis A is endemic)</i>	Yes → hepatitis.
<i>Have you had any recent contact with patients with jaundice or liver problems?</i>	

D. Review of symptoms related to the system of interest.

1. Abdominal pain
2. Heartburn
3. Abdominal distention
4. Gas and bloating
5. Abdominal mass
6. Dysphagea
7. odynophagea
8. Disturbed defecation
9. Stool : diarrhea/ constipation / blood /mucus
10. Vomiting
11. GI bleeding: melena /rectal bleeding.
12. Pruritis

E. Investigations:

- CBC
- Liver function test
- Coagulation profile
- US→ Cholelithiasis
- CT→ Cancer in the pancreas

F. Systemic review: Systemic review: Go to Medicine – Hx – “General” topic!

432 OSCE TEAM

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