



History of Jaundice

Color index :

Important

Further explanation

[Editing link](#)

Overview :

- Yellow discoloration of the skin or sclera due to presence of excess bilirubin being deposited in the sclera and skin
- if there is jaundice ask about the color of urine and stool

Could be :

- 1) **Pre-hepatic:** Caused by anything increase rate of hemolysis (breakdown of RBCs)
 - Unconjugated bilirubin increase / dark stool - dark urine
- 2) **Hepatic:** Unconjugated and conjugated bilirubin increase / Normal stool color- Dark urine color.
- 3) **Post hepatic** Caused by an interruption to the drainage of bile in the biliary system
 - Conjugated bilirubin increase / Pale stool color- Dark urine color.

Differential diagnosis :

1. Direct hyperbilirubinemia—urine positive for bilirubin :

A. Decreased intrahepatic excretion of bilirubin (Hepatocellular)

- Viral Hepatitis (RUQ pain fever with hepatosplenomegaly palmar erythema)
- Alcoholic hepatitis (weight loss, bruising, Dupuytren's contracture, asterixis palmar erythema, long hx of alcohol)
- Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (**NASH**) : liver inflammation and damage caused by a buildup of fat in the liver
- Toxin (Cocaine)
- Drug-induced (oral contraceptives- Tylenol)
- Primary biliary cirrhosis : Female, pruritus, fatigue, abdominal pain, generalised malaise, weight loss, anorexia, xanthelasma, hepatosplenomegaly , pale stool, dark urine
- Vascular injury
- Autoimmune hepatitis :

B. Extrahepatic biliary obstruction (Cholestatic) → gives you pale stool and dark urine

- Gallstones : Most common RUQ pain, aggravated by meals, fever
- Carcinoma of head of pancreas : RUQ dull pain loss of weight and appetite pale stool, dark urine
- Cholangiocarcinoma : Pruritus, generalised malaise, weight loss, fatigue, anorexia, pale stool, dark urine
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis : Hx of ulcerative colitis chills, night sweats, abdominal pain pruritus, generalised malaise, weight loss, fatigue, anorexia, pale stool, dark urine
- Periampullary tumors
- Extrahepatic biliary atresia

2. Indirect hyperbilirubinemia—urine negative for bilirubin

A. Excess production of bilirubin → usually mild jaundice (if the liver is functioning)+ dark stool and dark urine
Hemolytic anemias : Fever or chills, FHx of haemolytic disorders, abdominal pain, pruritus, generalised malaise, weight loss, fatigue, anorexia, dark urine, and dark stool

B. Reduced hepatic uptake of bilirubin or impaired conjugation

- Gilbert's syndrome → mild jaundice with fasting, stress, menstruation
- Drugs (e.g., sulfonamides, penicillin, rifampin, radiocontrast agents)
- Crigler-Najjar syndrome, types I and II
- Physiologic jaundice of the newborn (immaturity of conjugating system)
- Diffuse liver disease (hepatitis, cirrhosis)

3. Pseudo-Jaundice due to Carotenemia (sclera is intact)

Personal data

Chief complaint	Yellow discoloration
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History of presenting illness

How did the skin discoloration start? for how long ?	<p>→ Sudden Choledocholithiasis- Acute hepatitis - sepsis, hemolysis, chiari budd syndrome</p> <p>→ Gradual : Cancer in the head of the pancreas, Chronic hepatitis, CHF</p>
Dose the discoloration change with time ?	with fasting, stress, menstruation? gilbert syndrome
Is your urine dark?	<p>Dark :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hepatitis → Alcoholic liver → Hepatotoxicity → Biliary obstruction → hemolysis (by hemoglobinuria)
Are your stools pale ?	Biliary obstruction (with dark urine)

Associated symptoms

Do you have any skin Itching (pruritus)	→ Biliary obstruction
Do you have adominal pain?	epigastric: pancreatic cancer, pancreatitis RUQ: Choledocholithiasis
Does the pain radiate ?	<p>To right shoulder :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Choledocholithiasis
Characteristic of the pain	<p>Biliary :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Choledocholithiasis. <p>Dull :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Cancer in the head of the pancreas.
Does anything increase the pain?	<p>Fatty Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Choledocholithiasis
Do you have any Fever , chills and rigor ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hepatitis → Cholecystitis. → Hepatitis
Did you loss weight?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Cancer in the head of the pancreas → Alcoholic liver. → hepatobiliary cancer
anemia or splenomegaly ?	→ Pre hepatic
Have you had any vomiting of blood or passage of dark stools?	liver cirrhosis

Do you have Itching ?	→ Obstructive jaundice
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Past medical and surgical history

Have you had similar symptoms (pain)?	→ Cholelithiasis
Any history of existing liver disease?	
Do you have sickle cell- thalassemia?	→ Hemolysis.
Do you have a history of IBD such as ulcerative colitis?	→ Primary sclerosing cholangitis
Do you have any autoimmune diseases ?	
Have you been recently exposed to anyone with hepatitis?	→ Hepatitis A or B
Did you have a recent blood transfusion?	→ Hemolysis. → Hepatitis B
Hx of needle stick injury ?	→ Hepatitis
Hx of gallstones ?	→ Cholestatic jaundice
Have you had any surgeries (especially biliary surgery) ?	stricture , retained stone

Medication

Have you started any new medications recently?	TB medication or herbal → Hepatotoxicity.
Do you take herbal medication?	→ Hepatotoxicity.
Have you been immunized against hepatitis B?	

Family History

Does anybody in the family have similar symptoms?	→ Hepatitis
Have you or has anyone in your family ever had blood clots?	→ Hypercoagulable states may result in Budd-Chiari syndrome.
History of HBV in the mother ?	→ vertical transmission
Family Hx of any liver diseases ?	→ Family history of jaundice or liver disease suggests the possibility of hereditary hyperbilirubinemia or genetic liver disease

Social history

Do you drink alcohol /How much? How long?	→ Alcoholic liver
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Have you ever used intravenous drugs?	→ Hepatitis
Have you ever had high-risk sexual behavior?	→ Hepatitis
Have you traveled recently? (to areas where hepatitis A is endemic)	→ Hepatitis
Have you had any recent contact with patients with jaundice or liver problems?	
Do you have any tattoos ?	→ Hepatitis
What is your occupation	(contact with hepatotoxins)
(For Woman) are you pregnant ?	→ Pregnancy related

Systematic Review

Investigation :

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

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