

# Bilirubin Metabolism

- Porphyrin  $\rightarrow$  4 pyrrole rings  $\rightarrow$  linkage of 4 methyne
- Porphyrin form complex
  - iron  $\rightarrow$  heme
  - cobalt  $\rightarrow$  cobalamine
  - magnesium  $\rightarrow$  chlorophyll
  - zinc bond.
- Heme proteins = hemoglobin
  - myoglobin
  - cytochromes
  - catalase ( $H_2O_2$  metabolism)
  - tryptophan pyrrolase

CATABOLIC product of Porphyrin  
**BILIRUBIN**

## Sources of Bilirubin

%85  $\rightarrow$  erythrocytes destroyed

%15  $\rightarrow$  ineffective erythropoiesis

degradation non-hem hem  $\rightarrow$  myoglobin

catalase

peroxidase

cytochrome b5

# Formation of Bilirubin

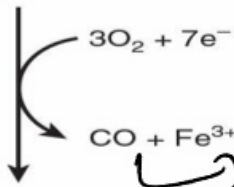
Reticuloendothelial system cells of liver  
bone marrow  
spleen.



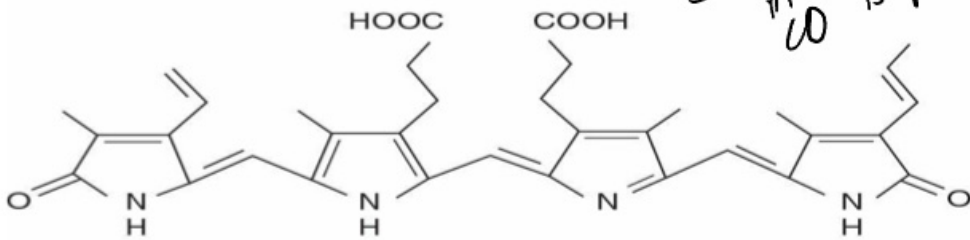
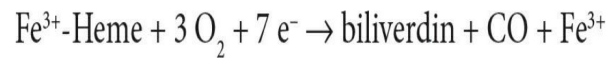
## ① Microsomal Heme Oxygenase

- iron of heme oxidized to ferric form

ER

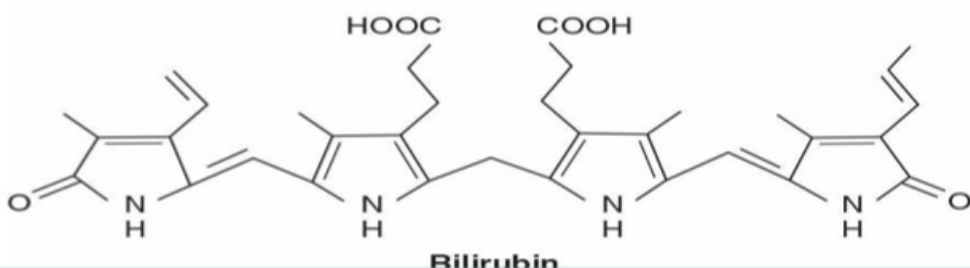
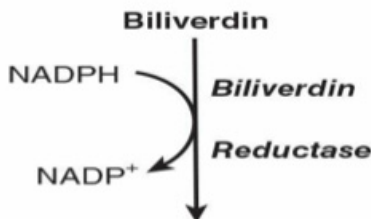


only 5-step in our body is produced.



## ② Cytoplasmic Biliverdin Reductase

Cytoplasm

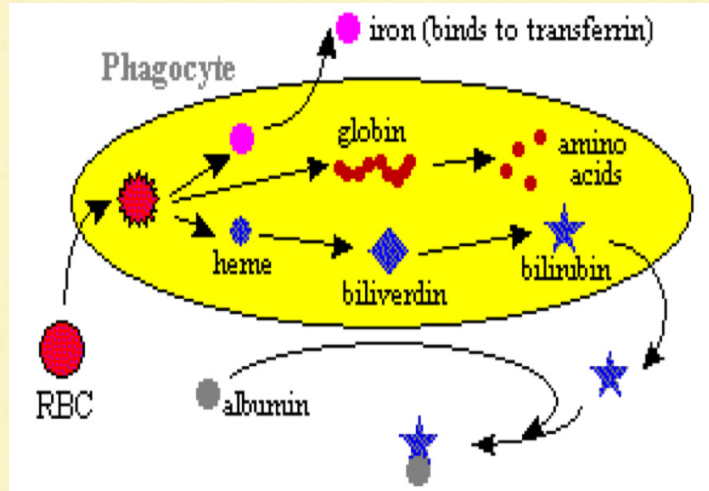


provided by  
- NADPH

- cytoplasmic enzyme  
(cytochrome p450 reductase)

## What happens to products

- ① Globin = find its way in aa pool
- ② Iron = enter iron pool for reuse
- ③ CO = exhaled



BILIRUBIN FORMED transferred Why  
Where  
How

Transferred Why

Toxic characteristics

Transferred Where

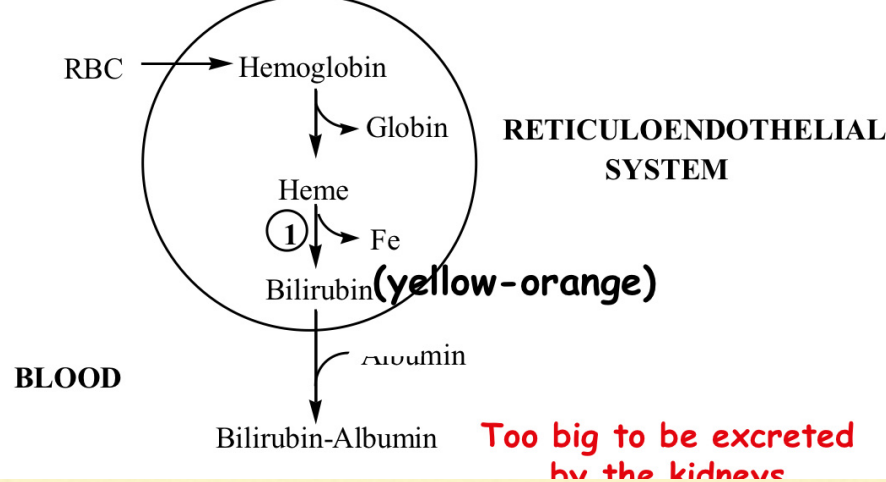
non polar molecule so

- ① necessary enzymatic system increase polarity
- ② anatomical structure to remove it bile canaliculus

in LIVER

Transferred How

Non-covalent binding to Albumin



Albumin  $\rightarrow$  one high affinity  
 $\rightarrow$  one low affinity sites

! a number of compounds such as drugs compete with bilirubin for high affinity binding site on albumin  
 $\hookrightarrow$  displace bilirubin from albumin  $\rightarrow$  significant clinical effects

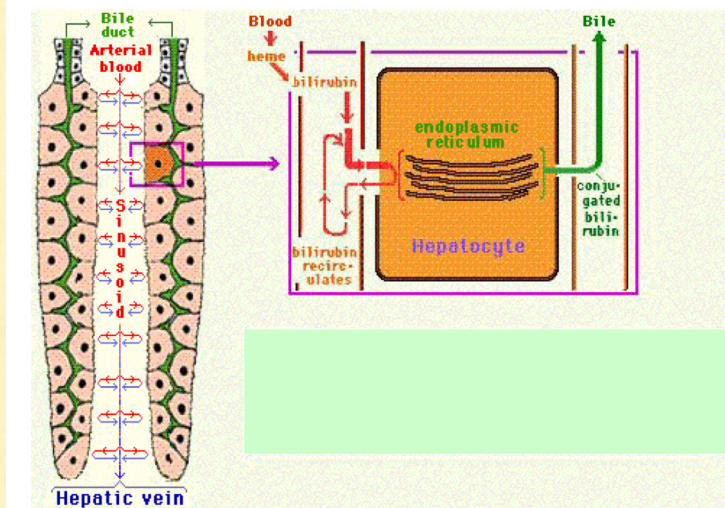
In the neonatal period if the the concentration of this bilirubin exceeds 20-25 mg/dL (which can be tightly bound by albumin) it becomes capable of penetrating the blood-brain barrier.

This can result in a hyperbilirubinemic toxic encephalopathy, or kernicterus, which can cause mental retardation.

LIVER takes up bilirubin.

II Entry = ① Bilirubin / detached from albumin / taken up by sinusoidal surface of hepatocytes / by a carrier mediated saturable system /

! large capacity system = even in pathologic conditions not a rate limiting step  
 - organic anion binding protein used.



— net uptake of bilirubin dependent on removal of bilirubin via metabolic pathways

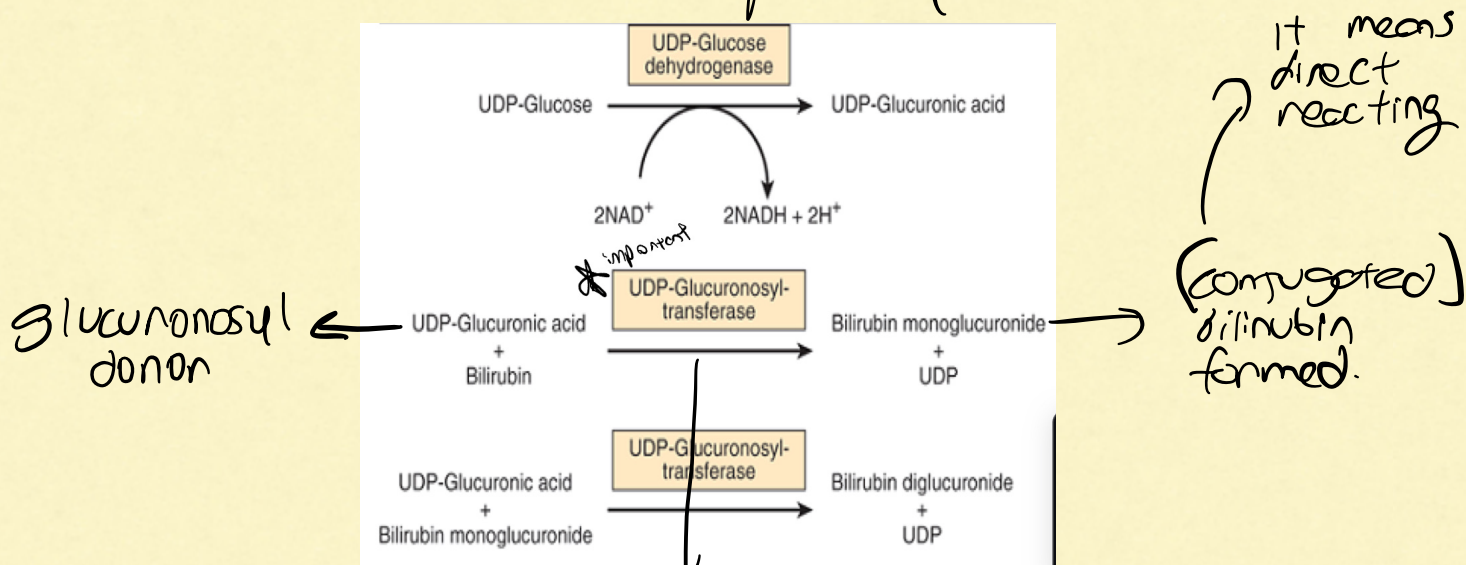
\* In hepatocytes, cytosolic proteins keep them solubilized prior to conjugation.

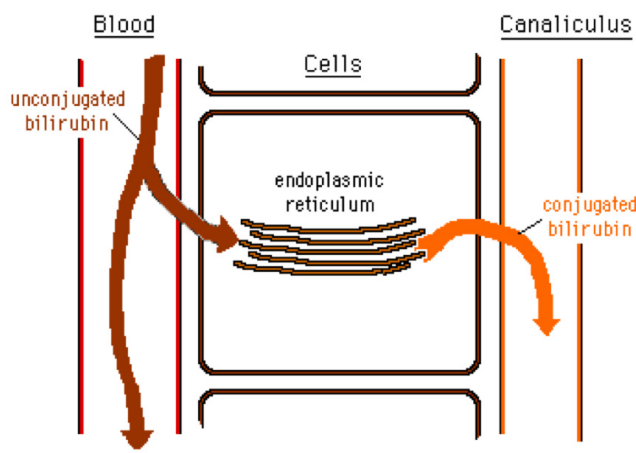
→ Ligandin

→ Protein Y

also prevent efflux of bilirubin back to blood

[2] Conjugation = bilirubin + glucuronic acid molecules  
this is it → polar form





① %85 → glucuronidated  
%10 → sulphated

② most of them diglucuronide  
③ exit abnormally plasma in human plasma → monoglucuronides

### ③ Secreted into Bile

active transport mechanism

rate limiting

MRP 2 → various tissue include brain → toxic effect of conjugated bilirubin

### ④ Conjugated Bilirubin is reduced urobilinogen by intestinal bacteria

Conjugated bilirubin  $\xrightarrow{\text{glucuronidases}}$  Unconjugated Bilirubin  $\xrightarrow{\text{pigment reduced by fecal flora}}$  urobilinogen

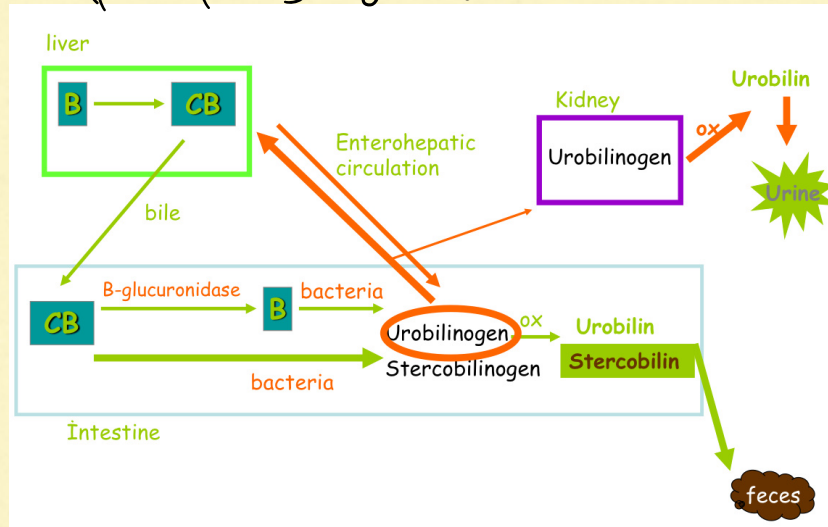
in large intestine

### ⑤ Fate of Urobilinogen

① small fraction of urobilinogen reabsorbed and reexcreted through liver to keep the cycle.

② small fraction be excreted in urine in the form of urobilin gives urine odour and colour.

colourless  
 ↳ urobilinogens oxidized → urobilins in fecal flora  
 \* Darkening of feces on air due to this reaction



! Newborn → antibiotics destroy intestinal flora  
 decrease conversion of bilirubin to stercobilin  
 Billiverdin ← Bilirubin  
 pale colored feces

Jaundice bilirubin diffuse into tissue  
 hyperbilirubinemia → increased production of bilirubin  
 → failure of liver to conjugate or  
 excrete bilirubin  
 → obstruction of excretory ducts  
 of liver

Delta bilirubin → conjugated bilirubin - Albumin complex  
 long lasting conjugated hyperbilirubinemia

- Why is it important do you think?
- it remains elevated during the recovery phase of obstructive jaundice after the remainder of the conjugated bilirubin has declined to normal levels

unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia

## ① hemolytic anemia

liver large capacity handling bilirubin  
↳ unconjugated hyperbili " slight in the event of extensive hemolysis

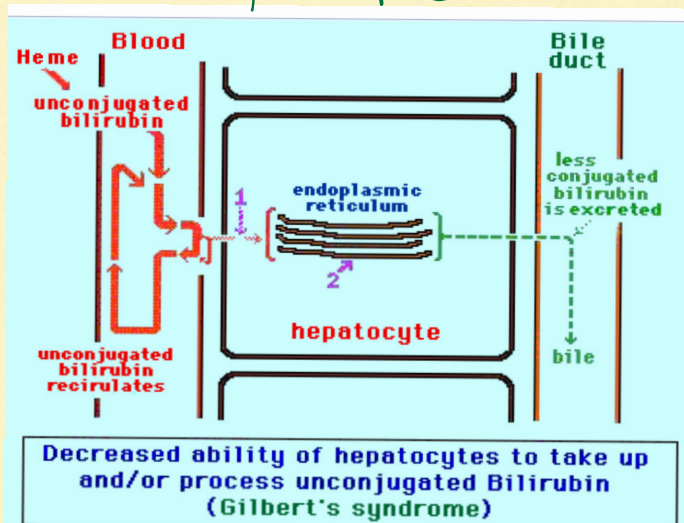
## ② Neonatal physiologic Jaundice

most common cause

### Neonatal "Physiologic" Jaundice

- 1- accelerated hemolysis around the time of birth
- 2- immature hepatic system for the uptake (ligandin?),
- 3- conjugation,
  - A) reduced bilirubin-UGT activity
  - B) reduced synthesis of the substrate for that enzyme, UDP-glucuronic acid
- 4- decreased secretion of bilirubin.
- Since the bilirubin is unconjugated, it is capable of penetrating the blood-brain barrier when its concentration in plasma exceeds that which can be tightly bound by albumin (20-25 mg/dL) leading to hyperbilirubinemic toxic encephalopathy. 66

## ③ Gilbert Syndrome



## ④ Crigler-Najjar syndrome

mutation gene coding bilirubin UGT

type 1 = no activity

type 2 = some activity retained

## ⑤ Toxic hyperbilirubinemia

toxic, hepatic parenchymal cell damage  
impairs conjugation

these are mediated by → phototherapy  
exchange transfusion  
phenobarbital

phototherapy → convert bilirubin to other  
derivatives excreted in bile  
↳ bilirubin con. decreases

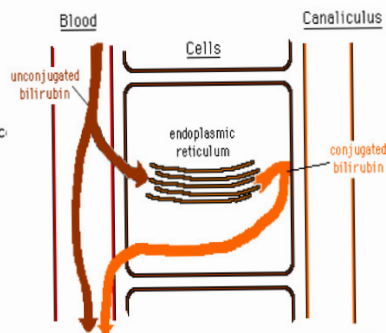
## conjugated hyperbilirubinemia

①

### Defective secretion of the bilirubin into the bile

- Dubin-Johnson syndrome
  - MOABP mutation
  - MRP-2 (Multidrug resistance associated protein)

- Rotor syndrome
  - Rare
  - Genetic
  - harmless



## ② Intrahepatic Cholestasis

↳ microobstruction of intrahepatic bile duct

4%  
60-70 bilirubin direct  $\rightarrow$  cholestasis  
30-40 indirect bilirubin  $\rightarrow$  decreased conjugation

## ① Extrahepatic obstruction

↳ blockage of hepatic or common bile ducts

— often gall stone or cancer of head of pancreas

