

Ticket to Enter:

A mother just delivered a healthy, full-term infant. The mother is concerned because her first child required phototherapy for jaundice. As the nurse, what education would you provide for the mother?

Your child appears healthy at this time, and there's a chance that jaundice may not be developed. In that case, there is no need to worry about jaundice or phototherapy. Jaundice may occur for many reasons; if a bruise was created during birth, or if the baby becomes cold and has a difficult time regulating temperature. It's very important to keep your baby warm. In addition, when a baby is born red blood cells are broken down and as a result bilirubin is created. If the bilirubin builds up, jaundice may develop. This is a normal occurrence among newborns. We will monitor your baby's bilirubin level during your time in the hospital and implement phototherapy if necessary. However, once you are discharged, if your baby's appearance starts to become yellow it's important to notify the healthcare provider as soon as possible.