

Class Preparation (Newborn Hepatic):

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 about jaundice? What instructions are important to explain if the infant requires phototherapy? Are there ways to prevent the infant from developing jaundice?

I would educate her that jaundice is very common in newborns. It is caused by excess bilirubin caused by the breakdown of RBC's. If the infant requires phototherapy to breakdown the excess bilirubin, the baby will need eye equipment to protect their eyes. A few ways to prevent the infant from developing jaundice is to frequently feed the child which promotes bowel movements that help get rid of excess bilirubin.