

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?

Jaundice is when there is an overproduction/ build up of bilirubin in the baby causing the babies skin to present with a yellow tint. This bilirubin is a natural occurrence but some babies end up building up more then others and need help to bring it down. During phototherapy we are going to protect the babies eyes and genital region but keeping as much of their skin exposed as possible under the light. We will monitor them under the light.to prevent jaundice we can encourage frequent feedings even if the baby is not awake they should be going no more then 3 hours without feeding. We can also prevent by monitoring all babies levels when they are born even if they are not showing immediate signs so that we can catch the levels early and get the baby treatment so it will be a shorter amount of time.