

BILIRUBIN

Meaning: Bilirubin is a yellow pigment formed from the breakdown of heme in red blood cells, often measured to assess liver function and diagnose related medical conditions.

1. Bilirubin is a yellow compound that occurs in the normal catabolic pathway that breaks down heme in vertebrates.
2. Elevated bilirubin levels can indicate various liver diseases or conditions related to bile flow obstruction.
3. Doctors often order a bilirubin test to assess liver function and diagnose potential health issues.
4. In newborns, high bilirubin levels can lead to jaundice, which is usually treated with phototherapy.
5. The liver processes bilirubin, and any dysfunction can cause an accumulation of this pigment in the blood.
6. Bilirubin can be categorized into direct (conjugated) and indirect (unconjugated) types depending on its solubility.
7. A bilirubin count is an essential part of a liver function test and helps in monitoring patients with hepatitis.
8. Certain medications can affect bilirubin metabolism, leading to altered levels in patients undergoing treatment.
9. Patients with Gilbert's syndrome typically have mild elevations in bilirubin without any significant health complications.
10. Understanding bilirubin's role in the body is crucial for diagnosing and treating various hematological and liver disorders.

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