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Screening for Bilirubin Encephalopathy: Evidence Synthesis Number 72

By U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 92 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. Some degree of jaundice or hyperbilirubinemia occurs in most newborns. Severe neonatal hyperbilirubinemia is associated with kernicterus, a rare condition characterized by athetoid spasticity, gaze and visual abnormalities, and sensori-neural hearing loss in survivors. It may also be associated with mental retardation. A 2003 review concluded that kernicterus has a mortality of at least 10 and a morbidity of at least 70. The true incidence of kernicterus is unknown because it is not a mandatory reportable disease. However, a 2001 Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert stated that cases of kernicterus have continued to be reported in recent years. Efforts have been made by clinicians and investigators to eliminate this rare disease by instituting system-level measures to screen for hyperbilirubinemia and prevent the occurrence of kernicterus. Most notable among these is a set of clinical practice guideline concerning the management of hyperbilirubinemia in infants of at least 35 weeks gestation published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 2004. The 2004 guideline emphasizes the attention to risk factors associated with hyperbilirubinemia, close followup of at-risk infants, and the...

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