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# **Probiotics for the management of Neonatal hyperbilirubinemia**

**Thesis**

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in childhood  
studies of special needs*

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

لَسْبَدَانِكَ لَا نَعْلَمُ لَنَا  
إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ  
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

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## *Contents*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>REVIEW OF LITERATE</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>SUBJECTS AND METHODS</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>ARABIC SUMMARY</b>	<b>128</b>

## *A list of Abbreviations*

TSB	Total serum Bilirubin
CBC	Complete Blood count
ABO	Blood groups A, B, AB, O
Rh	Rhesus factor
RBCS	Red Blood cells
G6PD	Glucose – 6- Phosphate dehydro- genase.
CRP	Cellular – Reactive protein
NICU	Neonatal Intensive care unit
VLBW	Very low Birth weight
PN	Parenteral Nutrition
NEC	Necrotizing Enterocolitis
B.GD.	Beta – Glucuronidase
UDPG.T	Uridine Diphosphate Glucuronidyl transferase
CB	Conjugated Bilirubin
UCB	Un Conjugated Bilirubin
ECT	Exchange transfusion
CO	Carbon monoxide
FE	Ferrous
TORCH	Toxoplasmosis /Rubella/ cytomegalo virus/ Herpes
IGI	Immuno globulin A
IVIG	Intervanous immuno globulin
IL	Inter- leukin
EGF	Epidermal growth factor
IGG	Immuno globulin G
GA	Gestational Age
TCB	Trans cutaneous bilirubin



## *List of Tables*

Table	Subject	Page
<b>Table (1)</b>	Drugs that cause significant displacement of bilirubin from albumin in vitro.	9
<b>Table (2)</b>	Factors that exacerbate physiological jaundice leading to high serum bilirubin levels	16
<b>Table (3)</b>	Effects of Bilirubin toxicity in new borns.	38
<b>Table (4)</b>	Criteria to estimate clinical jaundice.	38

## *List of Tables*

Table	Subject	Page
<b>Table (1)</b>	Age distribution between groups	77
<b>Table (2)</b>	Gestational age distribution between groups.	78
<b>Table (3)</b>	Weight distribution between groups.	79
<b>Table (4)</b>	Total bilirubin distribution between groups in/out	80
<b>Table (5)</b>	Change assessment in each group	80
<b>Table (6)</b>	Day before discharge distribution between groups	81
<b>Table (7)</b>	Correlations of total bilirubin, days under treatment gestational age/and weight between groups.	82
<b>Table (8)</b>	Type distribution between groups.	83
<b>Table (9)</b>	Comparison among types in control groups.	84
<b>Table (10)</b>	Comparison among types in intervention groups	84
<b>Table (11)</b>	Total Bilirubin distribution between groups in hemolytic	85
<b>Table (12)</b>	Total bilirubin distribution between groups in infection.	86
<b>Table (13)</b>	Total bilirubin distribution between groups in physiological	87

# Graphes

Figure	Subject	Page
<b>Graph (1)</b>	Age distribution between groups.	77
<b>Graph (2)</b>	Gestational age distribution between groups	78
<b>Graph (3)</b>	Weight distribution between groups	79
<b>Graph (4)</b>	Total bilirubin distribution between groups <b>IN /OUT</b>	80
<b>Graph (5)</b>	Day needed distribution between groups	81
<b>Graph (6)</b>	Types distribution between groups	83
<b>Graph (7)</b>	Bilirubin in hemolytic	85
<b>Graph (8)</b>	Bilirubin in infection	86
<b>Graph (9)</b>	Bilirubin in physiological	87

# Abstract

**Background** In recent years, the tendency to use drugs has been increasing in the treatment of neonatal jaundice. Several drugs have been used since then, but the effect of probiotics on serum bilirubin level (SBL) is not so clear. This study was conducted to evaluate the effect of probiotics on SBL and the duration of phototherapy in term neonates with hyperbilirubinemia. **Objective/ the aim of the work:** To evaluate and assess the therapeutic effects of the probiotic substance on neonatal jaundice. **Subjects and Methods:** - In this Experimental Randomized clinical trial study we studied (400) newborns with jaundice hospitalized for phototherapy in kenayate Hospital in zagazig during 5/2017 to 5/2018 - Eligible neonates were Randomly divided into two groups: **1) Intervention (n = 200) 2) control (n= 200)** Both groups receive standard conventional phototherapy but the intervention group received 250mg lactobacillus powder with milk as a probiotic substance until hospital discharge. The out come variable were. TSB and the duration of phototherapy.- the data were analyzed by (SPSS version 20.0) and p value was at ( $< 0.05$ ) for significant, ( $< 0.01$ ) for high significant. **Results** - TSB (out)/on discharge after hospitalization of **intervention group** was a mean:  $9.39 \pm 1.35$  and of **control group** was a mean:  $9.89 \pm 0.9$ , (TSB) was highly significant lower in intervention group / on discharge with a probiotic substance than the control Group/ on

discharge without a probiotic substance. Duration of hospitalized days needed to stay under the phototherapy treatment are of **intervention group is a mean of :  $4.84 \pm 0.62$**  and of **control group is a mean of  $5.785 \pm 0.801$**  ,duration of hospitalized days under phototherapy treatment of intervention group with a probiotic substance was highly significant lower than of control group. Without a probiotic substance. (TSB) out / on discharge was significantly lower in both groups in physiologic cases more than other two hemolytic and infectious cases and significantly lower in infectious than hemolytic cases. **Conclusion:** Probiotics lowered the serum bilirubin levels of neonates with jaundice and decrease the duration of hospitalized days under phototherapy treatment **Recommendation:** This study recommended that we can use a probiotic substance within a plane of management of neonatal hyperbilirubinemia. **Key words:** total serum bilirubin, phototherapy, probiotics.

## INTRODUCTION

- Neonatal jaundice is defined as the yellowish discoloration of the sclera, mucous membrane and skin caused by hyperbilirubinemia, which is one of the most common conditions confronting neonatologists daily. About 60% of term and 80% of preterm infants develop jaundice in the first week of life. (Annagur et al., 2014)

The incidence of neonatal jaundice remains high because of infections, genetic factors and premature birth. Depending upon the cause, jaundice may be present at birth or any time during the neonatal period. Jaundice due to either indirect (un-conjugated) or direct (conjugated) bilirubin within the first 24 hours of life should be taken seriously. (Rennie et al., 2011)

In rare instance, the TSB reaches levels that can cause kernicterus, a condition characterized by bilirubin staining of neurons and neuronal necrosis involving primarily the basal ganglia of the brain and manifested in athetoid cerebral palsy, hearing loss, dental dysplasia, and paralysis of upward gaze. (Ambalvan and carlo, 2012)

For preventing the kernicterus and other complications of hyperbilirubinemia, jaundice should be managed by phototherapy or exchange transfusion (ECT) (Wallen stein et al., 2013)

Neonatal jaundice, which is common in clinical practice, can mainly be classified as **physiological** and **pathological** ones. The former does not need special treatment, But the latter, which

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originates from various factors, easily leads to bilirubin encephalopathy and even brain damage or death. (**Utalah S, et al 2016**)

The mature GIT contains a large quantity of microbiota. that play a role in protecting infant and promoting health functionality.

The normal development of the human GIT depends on the presence of complex gastro intestinal microbiota. (**Yi- LiG et al 2017**)

**-Probiotic :** a living friendly bacteria or micro - organism in the intestine. , Have health Benefit on the host. , It's a normal intestinal flora. and Controls the growth of harmful bacteria.

which, when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host, Most commonly available probiotic supplements contain Lactobacillus and/or Bifidobacterium, which are part of the normal human microbiotic. (**Zahed pasha, et al.; 2017**)

Current recommendations for the management of hyperbilirubinemia in preterm infants have focused on determining age - specific bilirubin levels for initiating phototherapy. (**Maisels MJ, et al.,2012**)

However, there is concern regarding Potential adverse effects. of aggressive phototherapy in preterm infants. Besides blue light phototherapy, and drugs, probiotics have also been used to enhance immunity mainly by regulating bacterial colonies. They can form a biological barrier by specifically binding intestinal epithelial cells

through teichoic acid. Therefore, particular attention has-been paid to the use of probiotics in treating neonatal jaundice. **(Tyson JE, et al.2012)**