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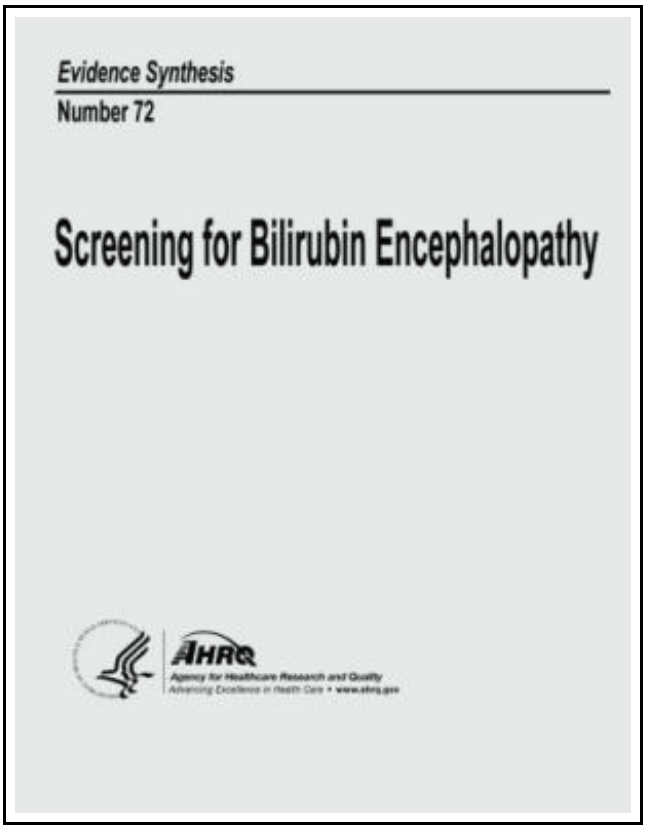

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(Rebecca Bechtelar)

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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 use of phototherapy and exchange transfusion to decrease the level of hyperbilirubinemia as appropriate. Tufts-New England Medical Center Evidence-based Practice Center (Tufts-NEMC EPC) completed a review in 2003 examining the effects of bilirubin on neurodevelopmental outcomes in infants of at least 34 weeks gestation. The report also examined the efficacy of phototherapy, the accuracy of transcutaneous bilirubin (TcB), and the various strategies for predicting hyperbilirubinemia. The Center on Primary Care, Prevention and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), on behalf of the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), requested an update evidence report on the...

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