

CRIGLER-NAJJAR SYNDROME

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- red blood cells die about every 120 days
- hemoglobin from red blood cells is broken down into its heme and protein components
- heme is toxic and is converted to bilirubin which is water-insoluble until processed by the liver
- liver converts bilirubin to its water-soluble (conjugated) form by adding two molecules of glucuronic acid
- conjugated bilirubin can then be released via the bile duct to the intestine for excretion

