G-6-PD Deficiency in the Newborn


In the discussion part of the article, the authors very logically summarized their results as follows: ‘This fact together with the irregular serum levels should lead to the conclusion that Hp determinations are not useful to evaluate the occurrence of hemolysis in newborn infants.’ This was reported previously by Rausen et al. [1]. Correlating the plasma hemoglobin levels with the presence or absence of haptoglobin in cord blood and in the newborn period, we reached the same conclusion more directly [2]. In spite of the above statement, the following sentence was in the abstract: ‘The findings confirm the authors’ assumption expressed elsewhere, that this form of hyperbilirubinemia is not hemolytic in nature.’ Since there is such a discrepancy between these two statements, I would like to question how much one could be certain about the presence or absence of hemolysis in the newborn period by the haptoglobin studies? Sinasi Özsoyulu, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Hacettepe University, Ankara (Turkey)

References