

Icterus/jaundice

Category(ies): Cornea, External Eye Disease

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The image shows conjunctival icterus in a 49-year-old Hispanic female with decompensated alcoholic cirrhosis with severe alcoholic hepatitis. Bilirubin level is at 30 mg/dL (normal limit ≤ 1.2 mg/dL). In addition to the yellowed conjunctiva, note the surrounding jaundiced skin. The yellow hue is better appreciated when seen in natural light and when juxtaposed with the white paper and/or the examiner's finger. The deposits of bilirubin are contained in the conjunctiva, and the color is accentuated by the white scleral background. Thus "scleral icterus" is technically an incorrect term.

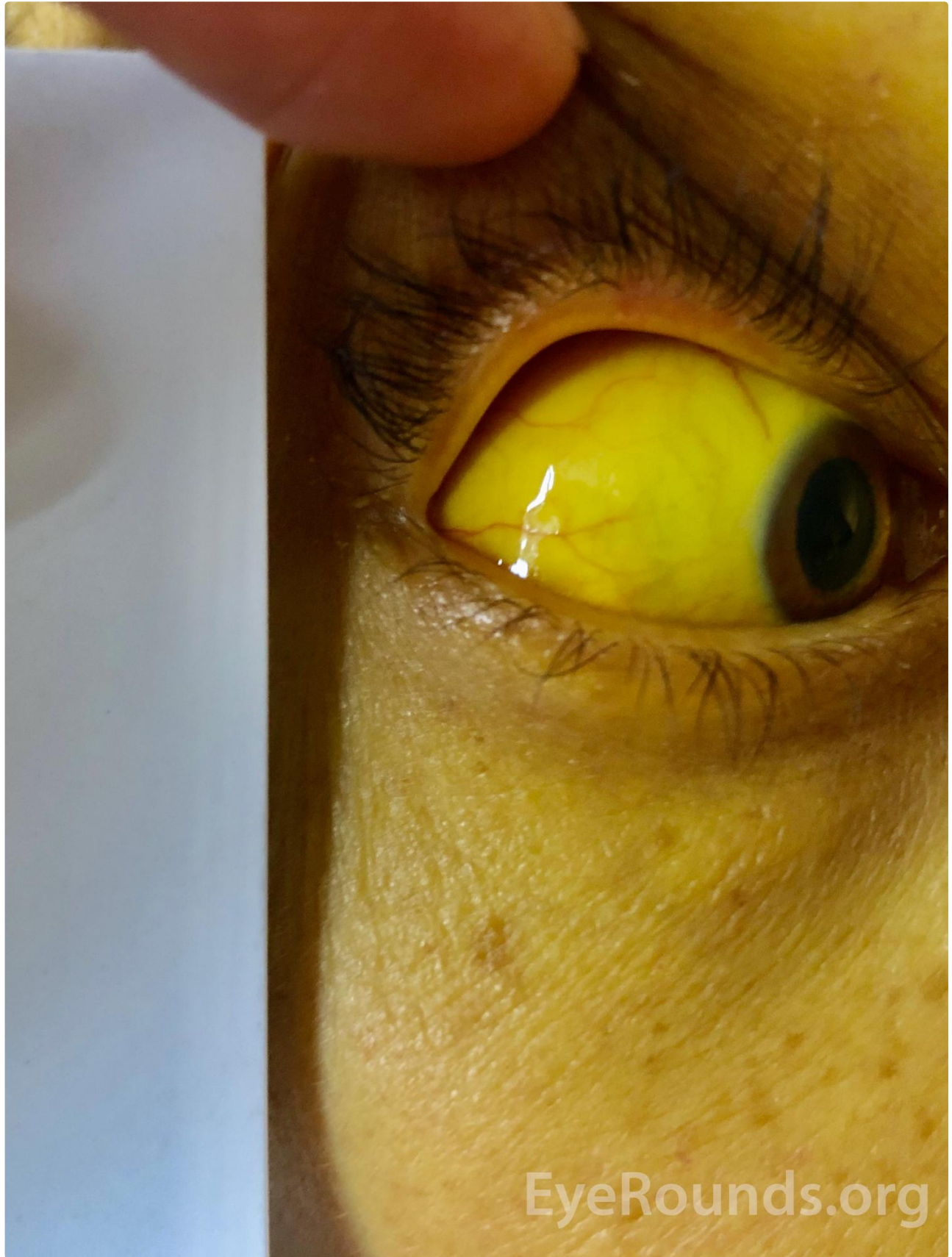


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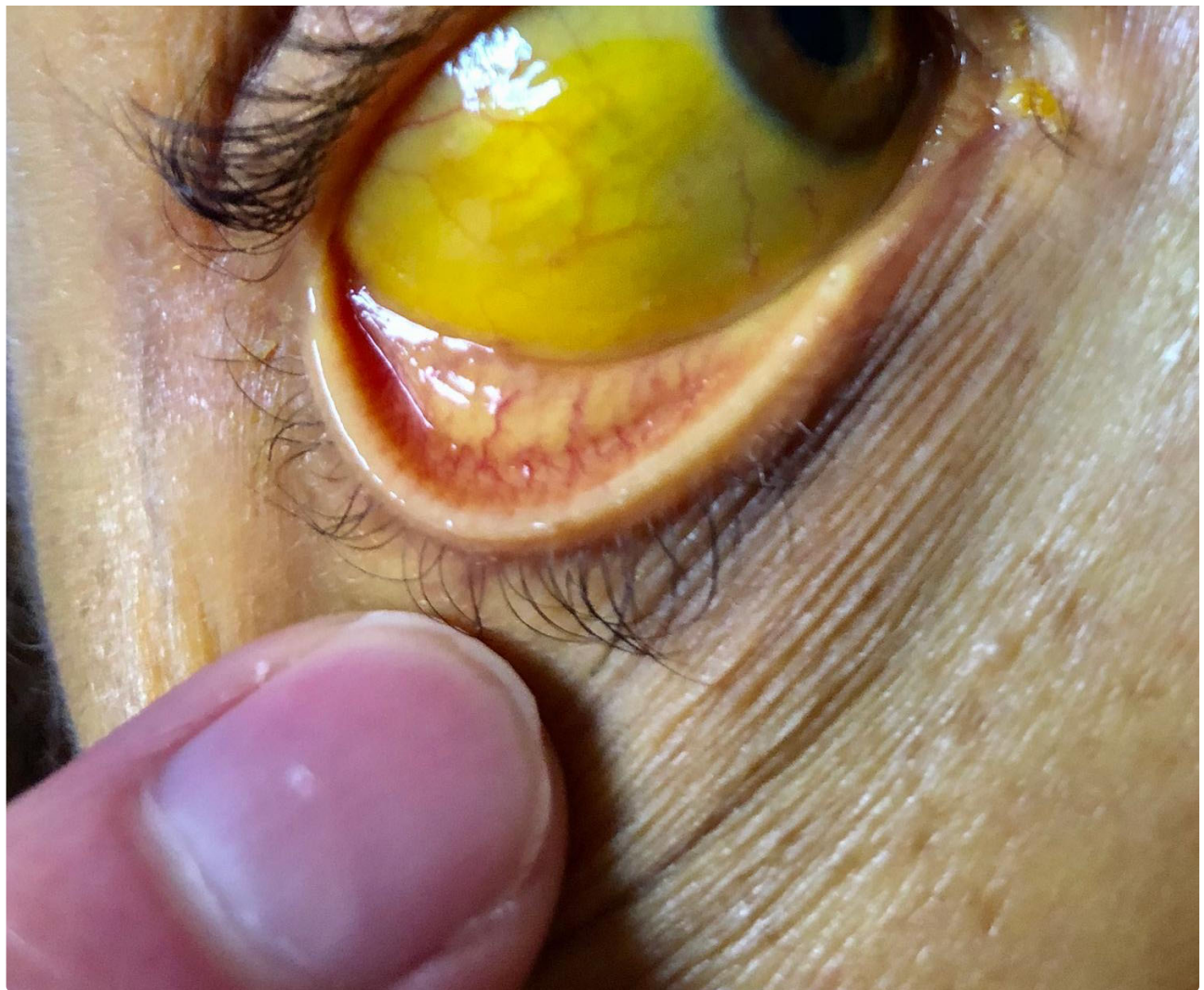




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References:

1. Tripathi RC and Sidrys LA. (1979). 'Conjunctival icterus,'not'scleral icterus'. JAMA, 242(23), 2558-2558.
2. Manning MH, Rustgi AK, Chamberlain SH, Marcus DM. Gastrointestinal and Nutritional Disorders. In: Mannis MJ, Holland EJ (eds), Cornea, 4th edition. Elsevier. (2017) Chapter 332, 4535-4546

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