INNOVATIVE NEONATAL JAUNDICE DETECTION A COLOR SENSOR-BASED SOLUTION FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS

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Article history

Postes,
Reviewed,
Received,

ABSTRACT
Neonatal jaundice is a common condition affecting a significant proportion of newborns, particularly preterm infants, necessitating prompt detection to prevent severe complications. This study presents the development of an innovative, non-invasive color sensor-based device for early jaundice detection. Utilizing the TCS3200 color sensor and Arduino UNO, the device measures skin pigmentation at multiple body sites, correlating findings with bilirubin levels using the Kramer scale. Data collected from term and preterm infants demonstrated high correlation (R^2 = 0.92) between sensor readings and laboratory bilirubin measurements. The device accurately differentiated between physiological and pathological jaundice. This tool offers a reliable, cost-effective alternative for resource-limited healthcare facilities. Findings indicate the potential for widespread implementation to enhance neonatal outcomes.
Keywords*: neonatal jaundice; color sensor; kramer scale; early detection; non-invasive*

ABSTRAK
Ikterus neonatal adalah kondisi umum yang mempengaruhi sebagian besar bayi baru lahir, terutama bayi prematur, sehingga memerlukan deteksi dini untuk mencegah komplikasi serius. Penelitian ini menghadirkan pengembangan alat deteksi ikterus berbasis sensor warna yang inovatif dan non-invasif. Alat ini menggunakan sensor warna TCS3200 dan Arduino UNO untuk mengukur pigmen kulit pada berbagai area tubuh, dengan hasil yang dikorelasikan dengan kadar bilirubin berdasarkan skala Kramer. Data dari bayi cukup bulan dan prematur menunjukkan korelasi tinggi (R^2 = 0,92) antara pembacaan sensor dan pengukuran bilirubin laboratorium. Alat ini mampu membedakan secara akurat ikterus fisiologis dan patologis, menawarkan solusi yang andal dan hemat biaya bagi fasilitas kesehatan dengan sumber daya terbatas. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan potensi penerapan luas untuk meningkatkan hasil kesehatan neonatal.

Keywords*: ikterus neonatal; sensor warna; skala Kramer; deteksi dini; non-invasif*

INTRODUCTION (12 pt)

Neonatal jaundice is a prevalent condition that can impact up to 60% of term and 80% of preterm newborns, caused by elevated bilirubin levels. Although physiological jaundice is typically benign, pathological jaundice requires immediate attention to prevent serious health issues such as kernicterus. Current standard practices for detecting jaundice often rely on blood sampling, which can be invasive, time-consuming, and inaccessible in many low-resource settings. This study seeks to address these challenges by developing a non-invasive, color sensor-based device that facilitates early detection of neonatal jaundice. Unlike previous methods which may not be feasible in all settings, this device offers simplicity, speed, and cost-effectiveness while maintaining high diagnostic accuracy.

METHOD (12 pt)

The research utilized a color sensor (TCS3200) integrated with an Arduino UNO microcontroller. The study was conducted at multiple neonatal care units, involving both term (gestation ≥37 weeks) and preterm (gestation <37 weeks) infants exhibiting signs of jaundice. Data collection involved measuring skin pigmentation at the forehead, chest, abdomen, and limbs to map the distribution of jaundice. The sensor's output was calibrated against clinical reference data, correlating skin color readings with bilirubin levels, verified through laboratory analysis. Data analysis employed statistical pattern recognition and regression techniques to evaluate the correlation between device readings and laboratory results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (12pt)

The results of this study underscored the strong performance of the developed color sensor-based device in detecting neonatal jaundice. A significant correlation was established between the device's readings and laboratory-measured bilirubin levels, with a correlation coefficient (R^2) of 0.92. This indicates that the sensor's measurements were highly consistent with traditional blood test results, validating the device's precision and reliability.

Performance Across Jaundice Severity Levels:

- **Mild Jaundice (4–8 mg/dl)**: The device successfully identified early-stage jaundice, where yellow pigmentation is typically confined to the head and neck. This early detection is crucial for monitoring newborns before jaundice progresses

- **Moderate Jaundice (5–12 mg/dl)**: The device accurately captured jaundice spreading to the chest and abdomen, aligning well with Kramer's second and third stages. The readings provided early warnings for cases that required closer clinical observation.
- **Severe Jaundice (8–16 mg/dl)**: The sensor proved effective in detecting advanced stages where the yellow tint extended to the lower abdomen and thighs. Such findings are critical for initiating interventions to prevent escalation.
- **Critical Jaundice (>18 mg/dl)**: The device demonstrated its capability to detect severe and life-threatening jaundice where the pigmentation reached distal extremities, such as the palms and soles. This stage demands immediate medical intervention.

Alignment with the Kramer Scale, The study benchmarked its findings against the Kramer scale, a well-established clinical tool for assessing the spread of jaundice. The device's ability to align its results with this scale reinforced its clinical relevance and applicability in diverse healthcare settings.

Potential Applications in Low-Resource Settings, A significant aspect of the discussion revolves around the potential deployment of this non-invasive tool in healthcare facilities with limited access to laboratory resources. In such settings, timely and accurate diagnosis is often hindered by a lack of advanced diagnostic equipment. The developed device, with its simplicity and affordability, addresses this gap by providing a reliable means of assessing jaundice through straightforward skin color scanning. This capability can transform neonatal care in low-resource areas by enabling early diagnosis and treatment, ultimately reducing the risk of severe complications such as kernicterus.

Clinical Implications, The high accuracy of the device suggests that it could be integrated as a first-line screening tool, complementing or even substituting blood tests where immediate access to laboratory services is impractical. By facilitating earlier intervention, the device can contribute to lower neonatal morbidity rates, ensuring better health outcomes.

Limitations and Future Directions, While the device showed promising results, further research involving larger sample sizes across different demographics is essential to strengthen these findings. Additionally, exploring the integration of advanced data analytics or machine learning algorithms could enhance the device's predictive capabilities and adaptability to various skin tones.

In conclusion, the study demonstrated that the color sensor-based device is an effective, non-invasive alternative for neonatal jaundice detection. Its alignment with established clinical

standards and adaptability for use in under-resourced environments highlights its potential to support neonatal care significantly

CONCLUSION (12pt)

The developed color sensor-based device for detecting neonatal jaundice proved to be a reliable and effective non-invasive tool, exhibiting accuracy levels comparable to standard laboratory methods. The device's simplicity, portability, and cost-efficiency position it as a promising solution for improving early jaundice detection, particularly in resource-limited healthcare environments. Future research should explore large-scale testing and potential integration into existing neonatal care protocols.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors wish to thank the Poltekkes Kemenkes Jakarta III and all involved neonatal care units for their support. Special gratitude is extended to the laboratory technicians and clinical staff who contributed to data collection and validation. This research was supported by funding from institutional research grants and technical assistance from partnered healthcare facilities.

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