is essential.

If home phototherapy is instituted, the hospital or home health care nurse or medical equipment company representative is usually responsible for teaching the family members and assessing their abilities to implement the treatment safely. General guidelines for home care preparation and education are discussed in Chapter 20. Written instructions and supervision of care—especially the application of eye shields if needed—are essential. The minor side effects of phototherapy are reviewed, and parents may need instruction in taking axillary temperatures and recording times and amounts of feedings and the number of wet diapers and stools. Regardless of how benign the disorder or the therapy, the parents need support and understanding. Measures should be taken to assist the mother in achieving successful breastfeeding, including consultation with a lactation specialist on an outpatient basis. Phenomenological research showed that mothers of infants who were receiving treatment for jaundice experienced physical and emotional exhaustion, loss of control, distress at the infant's appearance, and a feeling of having been robbed (Brethauer and Carey, 2010). Mothers in the study reported receiving a significant amount of conflicting information about jaundice and feeding from health care professionals. In jaundice associated with breastfeeding, follow-up blood studies are usually required to assess the progress of the jaundice. If temporary cessation of breastfeeding is prescribed, mothers should be taught to pump the breasts every 3 to 4 hours to maintain lactation; the expressed milk is frozen for use after breastfeeding is resumed.

Hemolytic Disease of the Newborn

Hyperbilirubinemia in the first 24 hours of life is most often the result of HDN, an abnormally rapid rate of RBC destruction. Anemia caused by this destruction stimulates the production of RBCs, which in turn provides increasing numbers of cells for hemolysis. Major causes of increased erythrocyte destruction are isoimmunization (primarily Rh) and ABO incompatibility.

Blood Incompatibility

The membranes of human blood cells contain a variety of **antigens**,