

o Heme is further broken down into biliverdin by the enzyme heme oxygenase and then converted to 5-unconjugated (indirect) bilirubin by biliverdin reductase. o In the liver, the enzyme UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) conjugates bilirubin with glucuronic acid, making it water-soluble (conjugated bilirubin). o Conjugated bilirubin is excreted into bile and transported to the intestine, where gut bacteria convert it into urobilinogen