

Fact Sheet

| Disease: | Viral Hepatitis (D) |
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| Overview: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis D virus (HDV) requires hepatitis B virus (HBV) for its replication. HDV infection occurs only simultaneously or as super-infection with HBV. • The virus is transmitted through contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person. • Vertical transmission from mother to child is rare. • Currently there is no effective antiviral treatment for hepatitis D. • Hepatitis D infection can be prevented by hepatitis B immunization. |
| Introduction | <p>Hepatitis D is a liver disease in both acute and chronic forms caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV) that requires HBV for its replication. Hepatitis D infection cannot occur in the absence of hepatitis B virus. The coinfection or super infection of HDV with HBV causes a more severe disease than HBV monoinfection.</p> <p>Other Known Names: Delta virus/</p> |
| Causes: | <p>It is caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV) that requires HBV for its replication.</p> |
| Transmission | <p>The routes of HDV transmission are the same as for HBV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From mother to child (Very rare). |

Fact Sheet

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By percutaneous or mucosal exposure to infected blood and various body fluids (such as: saliva, menstrual, vaginal, and seminal fluids...etc). • Reuse of needles and syringes either in health-care settings or among persons who inject drugs. • Migration from and to areas where HDV is endemic. |
| Symptoms: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaundice (a yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes). • Abdominal pain. • Dark urine. • Nausea and vomiting. • Fatigue. • Appetite loss. • Joint pain. <p>HDV accelerates hepatitis B to a more severe disease.</p> |
| Diagnosis: | <p>HDV patients needs the following screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver biopsy. • Liver enzymes (blood test). |
| Incubation Period | From two to 8 weeks. |
| Risk Factor: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who frequently require blood or blood products. • Drug use injection. • People with hepatitis B • Men who homosexual relations with men, |
| Higher Susceptibility Groups: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection during pregnancy (HVC an be passed from an infected mother to her baby; though much less common). |

Fact Sheet

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who did not have hepatitis B vaccine. |
| Complications: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active chronic hepatitis. • Acute liver failure. |
| Prevention: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get vaccinated against hepatitis B. • Early detection and immediate treatment of hepatitis B. • Hepatitis B immunization is key preventive measure of hepatitis D, though it does not provide protection against HDV for those already HBV infected. • Blood safety, injection safety, harm reduction services and preventive measures compliance. • No sharing of needles and syringes with others. |
| Treatment: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no specific treatment for acute or chronic HDV infection. HBV antiviral medications don't seem to be very effective in treating HDV. An HDV patient may take pegylated interferon alpha for one full year in case of prolonged infection. • Liver transplant may be considered for cases of end-stage liver disease. |
| References: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHO http://www.who.int/en/ - Medline plus: https://medlineplus.gov/ |

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Fact Sheet

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