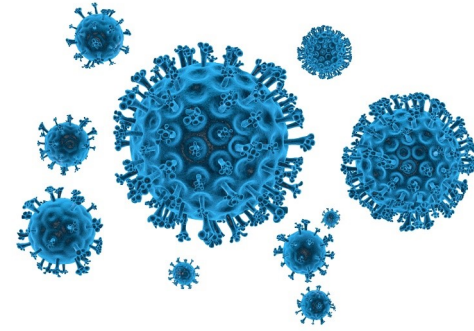


Hepatitis D



Hepatitis D is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis D virus. Hepatitis D only occurs in people who also have the hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis D can be an acute, short-term infection or become a long-term, chronic infection. There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis D. However, prevention of hepatitis B with hepatitis B vaccine also protects against future hepatitis D infection.

How is it spread?



- ▶ Hepatitis D only occurs in people who are also infected with the hepatitis B virus.
- ▶ Hepatitis D spreads through blood or other bodily fluids:
 - ▶ During sexual contact.
 - ▶ By sharing needles, syringes, or other ways of injecting drugs.
 - ▶ By mothers passing it to their baby at birth if they are infected while pregnant.

What are the signs and symptoms?



- ▶ Signs and symptoms appear three to seven weeks after infection and include:
 - ▶ Fever
 - ▶ Tiredness
 - ▶ Loss of appetite
 - ▶ Nausea
 - ▶ Vomiting
 - ▶ Abdominal pain
 - ▶ Dark urine
 - ▶ Joint pain
 - ▶ Yellowing of the skin and white part of the eyes (jaundice)

How is it diagnosed and treated?



- ▶ Hepatitis D is diagnosed through blood tests performed by doctors.
- ▶ Treatment for people with hepatitis D does not exist.
- ▶ Liver transplantation may be considered if hepatitis D leads to end-stage liver disease.

How can it be prevented?



- ▶ Getting vaccinated against hepatitis B is the best way to protect yourself because there is no vaccine for hepatitis D.
- ▶ Practicing safe sex and not sharing drug equipment can help you reduce your risk of hepatitis D infection.

