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.