



# Hepatitis D

## Fact Sheet

<b>SIGNS &amp; SYMPTOMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● jaundice</li><li>● fatigue</li><li>● abdominal pain</li><li>● loss of appetite</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● nausea, vomiting</li><li>● joint pain</li><li>● dark (tea colored) urine</li></ul>
<b>CAUSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Hepatitis D virus (HDV)</li></ul>	
<b>LONG-TERM EFFECTS WITHOUT VACCINATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● HDV can be acquired either as<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ a co-infection (occurs simultaneously) with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or</li><li>○ as a superinfection in persons with existing chronic HBV infection.</li></ul></li><li>● HBV-HDV co-infection:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ may have more severe acute disease and a higher risk (2%-20%) of developing acute liver failure compared with those infected with HBV alone</li></ul></li><li>● HBV-HDV superinfection<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ chronic HBV carriers who acquire HDV superinfection usually develop chronic HDV infection<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ progression to cirrhosis is believed to be more common with HBV/HDV chronic infections</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	

<b>TRANSMISSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Occurs when blood or body fluids from an infected person enters the body of a person who is not immune.</li> <li>● HBV is spread through having sex with an infected person without using a condom (the efficacy of <a href="#">latex condoms</a> in preventing infection with HBV is unknown, but their proper use may reduce transmission);</li> <li>● By sharing drugs, needles, or "works" when "shooting" drugs;</li> <li>● Through needlesticks or sharps exposures on the job; or</li> <li>● From an infected mother to her baby during birth.</li> </ul>	
<b>RISK GROUPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Injection drug users</li> <li>● Men who have sex with men</li> <li>● Hemodialysis patients</li> <li>● Sex contacts of infected persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health care and public safety workers</li> <li>● Infants born to infected mothers (very rare)</li> </ul>
<b>PREVENTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hepatitis B vaccination</li> <li>● HBV-HDV coinfection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis (hepatitis B immune globulin or vaccine) to prevent HBV infection</li> </ul> </li> <li>● HBV-HDV superinfection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ education to reduce risk behaviors among persons with chronic HBV infection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hepatitis B vaccine should be given to prevent HBV/HDV co-infection</li> </ul>	
<b>TREATMENT &amp; MEDICAL MANAGEMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Acute HDV infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supportive care</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Chronic HDV infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ interferon-alfa</li> <li>○ liver transplant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>TRENDS &amp; STATISTICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Routine surveillance data are not available.</li> </ul>	