

Hepatitis D: What You Need to Know

What is Hepatitis D?

Hepatitis D, also known as “delta hepatitis,” is a liver infection caused by the **hepatitis D virus (HDV)**.

Hepatitis D can be an acute, short-term infection or become a longer term, chronic infection.

Basic Facts

- **Hepatitis D** only occurs in people who are also infected with the **hepatitis B** virus
- **Hepatitis D** is known as a “satellite virus,” because it can only infect people who are also infected by the **hepatitis B** virus

Hepatitis D infection is uncommon in the United States. Most cases occur among people who migrate or travel to the United States from countries that have high HDV prevalence.

Hepatitis D: What You Need to Know

How it Spreads

- Sex with an infected partner
- Injection-drug use that involves sharing needles, syringes, or drug-preparation equipment
- When an HDV-infected mother gives birth (rare)
- Contact with blood from an infected person's open sores
- Needle sticks or exposures to sharp instruments that have been exposed to HDV
- Sharing items (e.g., razors and toothbrushes) with an infected person

Hepatitis D is not spread through food or water, sharing utensils, breastfeeding, hugging, kissing, hand-holding, coughing, or sneezing.

Source: cdc.gov

Symptoms

Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements, joint pain, and jaundice.

Diagnosis & Treatment

People with **hepatitis B** are recommended to get tested for **hepatitis D**. If you are experiencing symptoms of **hepatitis D**, visit your healthcare provider. A blood test is needed to detect infection with the virus that causes **hepatitis D**.



Prevention

Although no vaccine is available for **hepatitis D**, vaccination with the **hepatitis B** vaccine can protect people from **hepatitis D** infection.