

What Is Hepatitis D?

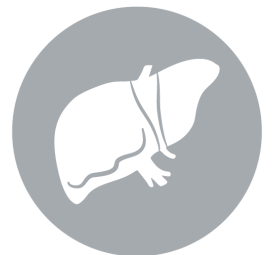
Hepatitis D is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV) that results in the most severe form of viral hepatitis. Only people living with or at risk for hepatitis B can contract hepatitis D, with 1 in 20 hepatitis B patients estimated to be coinfecting.

Why Should I Get Tested?

Hepatitis D can cause cirrhosis and liver cancer more quickly than the hepatitis B virus alone. HBV/HDV patients will require different treatment recommendations to manage their co-infection.

Get Tested If:

- You are from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Mongolia, Pakistan, India, Africa, the Amazonian River basin, or Central Asia
- You are on treatment for HBV but are not responding to it or have abnormal liver tests
- You have cirrhosis



How Can I Get Tested?

Your liver specialist will be able to order an HDV antibody test. This is a simple blood test and is the first step in diagnosing an HBV patient with HDV. If the antibody test is positive, this should be followed up with an HDV RNA test to confirm that you have a current infection.

What If I Have an HBV/HDV Coinfection?

Doctors may recommend treatment, such as pegylated interferon or Hepcludex, a new treatment approved in Europe (and hopefully elsewhere soon!), which help suppress hepatitis D infection and prevent liver damage. Two other drugs are also currently in the research pipeline. You can ask your doctor if there are any clinical trials near you. Apart from treatment, a healthy lifestyle and regular liver monitoring are recommended.