

# Hepatitis D

Information for hepatitis B patients

## What is Hepatitis D?

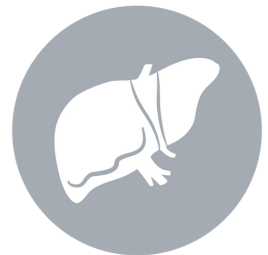
Hepatitis D is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV) that results in the most severe form of viral hepatitis. Only people with hepatitis B can contract hepatitis D, with 1 in 20 hepatitis B patients are estimated to be coinfectd.

## Why Should I Get Tested?

Hepatitis D can cause more rapid progression to cirrhosis and liver cancer than being infected with hepatitis B alone. HBV/HDV patients will require different treatment recommendations to manage their co-infection.

## Get Tested If:

- You are from Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Mongolia, Pakistan or Central Asia
- You are on treatment for HBV but are not responding to treatment 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 might recommend treatment, pegylated interferon, to help suppress the hepatitis D infection and prevent liver damage.