Hepatitis D

Information for hepatitis B providers

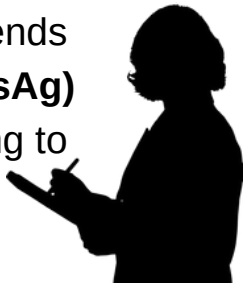
What Is Hepatitis D?

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 who are living with or at risk for hepatitis B can contract hepatitis D, and 1 in 20 people with HBV are estimated to be coinfected with HDV.

Why Should I Test My HBV Patients for HDV?

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

Who Should Be Tested?



The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) recommends that **all individuals who test positive for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) should undergo HDV antibody testing at least once**, with HDV RNA testing to confirm active infection when antibody results are positive. Individuals who are HBsAg positive with ongoing risk factors for HDV exposure should be considered for repeated periodic testing with HDV antibody.

How Can I Test My Patients?

Start with the HDV antibody test, which is the first step in diagnosing an HBV/HDV infection. If the antibody test is positive, this should be followed up with an HDV RNA test to confirm a current infection. The same blood sample can be used. Testing is available from Quest Laboratories, Labcorp, ARUP Laboratories, Mayo Clinic Labs, Eurofins and the CDC.

How Can I Manage an HBV/HDV Patient?

Hepcludex is an antiviral medication used to treat HDV infection in adults without cirrhosis or those with compensated liver disease. Hepcludex was approved by the U.S. FDA in May 2026 and it is currently the only U.S. FDA approved and recommended treatment for HDV infection. A variety of other treaments are in the research pipeline as well. You can find currently enrolling clinical trials here.

TheHepatitis B Foundation is anational nonprofit research and disease advocacy organization for hepatitis B. It established Hepatitis Delta Connect as a dedicated program in 2016 to provide information and support for those affected by hepatitis D.

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