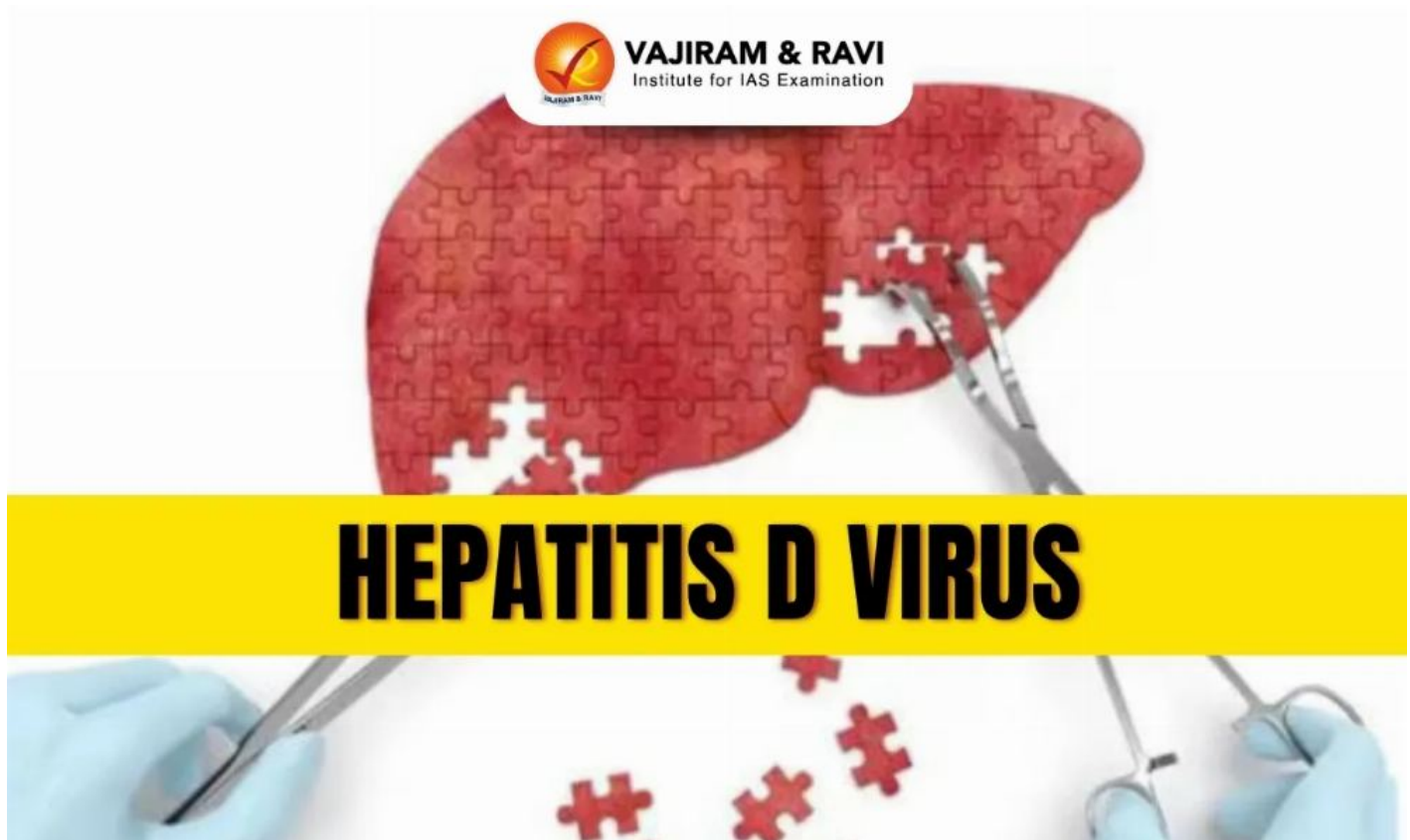


Hepatitis D

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Hepatitis D Latest News

Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the reclassification of hepatitis D as cancerous, emphasising the urgency for preventing viral hepatitis, which is a growing public health crisis.

About Hepatitis D

- It is a **serious liver infection** caused by the **hepatitis D virus** (HDV).
- It is an **incompetent virus** that **requires hepatitis B virus** (HBV) **for replication**.
- This means it cannot cause infection alone and triggers co-infections only with the hepatitis B virus.
- Hepatitis D only affects people who already have hepatitis B either simultaneously or sequentially.
- **Hepatitis B & D co-infection runs a more severe** course for risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer. Hepatitis **B can cause liver cancer** even **without causing cirrhosis** as it gets integrated in the DNA of cells.
- Hepatitis D virus augments the carcinogenic effect of Hepatitis B.
- **All types of hepatitis** are associated with acute liver infection; however, only **hepatitis B, C, and D can lead to chronic infections** with a higher risk of liver cirrhosis, failure or cancer.

- Hepatitis D is associated with a two- to six-fold higher risk of liver cancer compared with hepatitis B.
- **Transmission:** The mode of transmission is **similar to hepatitis B and C**, that is through parenteral **route or injections and transfusion, mother to child transmission** and **sexual contact**.
- **Prevention:** Universal hepatitis B vaccination indirectly prevents hepatitis D.
 - Hepatitis B vaccine may be given in any of the following schedules: **Birth, 1 and 6 months**; birth, 6 and 14 weeks; 6, 10 and 14 weeks; birth, 6, 10 and 14 weeks. In catch up vaccination, use 0, 1 and 6 months schedule.
 - **An adult**, especially if in a high risk comorbidity group, should take the hepatitis B vaccine in **three shots**. The **second dose is** given a month after the first, and the **third dose** is given **six months after the second**.

Source: IE

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