

Hepatitis D (Delta)

Definition of Hepatitis D

- A subviral satellite which can only propagate in the presence of the HBV virus

Epidemiology of Hepatitis D

- Prevalent in same areas as hepatitis B

Causes of Hepatitis D

- Small circular RNA virus
- Occurs either as a simultaneous infection with HBV (coinfection) or superimposed on chronic HBV infection (superinfection)

Presentations of Hepatitis D

- Patients develop complications of chronic liver disease more rapidly when co/superinfected with HBV and HDV
- Increased likelihood of liver failure, HCC and cirrhosis

Diagnosis of hepatitis D

- HDV antigens and HDV RNA levels

Initial management of Hepatitis D

- See management of HBV
- Peg-interferon is the only treatment for chronic hepatitis delta

Complications of hepatitis D

- Chronic liver disease with all its associated complications

Prognosis of Hepatitis D

- Chronic hepatitis delta carries the highest mortality of all the hepatitis viruses