**Background**

Hepatitis D is an acute viral illness characterized by discrete onset of symptoms and either jaundice or elevated liver enzymes. Symptoms most commonly include fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite/anorexia, nausea, vomiting, or dark urine (tea colored). Illness is always associated with a coexistent hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis D virus (HDV) infection may occur as acute co-infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV), or as super-infection in persons with chronic HBV infection.

**Clinical criteria for case classification**

**Confirmatory:**
Both of the following:
- Discrete onset of symptoms
- And either of the following:
  - Jaundice
  - Or elevated liver enzymes.

**Presumptive:**
Discrete onset of symptoms.

**Laboratory criteria for case classification**

Both of the following:
- Either of the following as evidence of HBV infection:
  - Positive IgM antibody to HBV core antigen (IgM anti-HBc)
  - Or positive HBV surface antigen (HBsAg)
- And one or more of the following:
  - Positive IgM antibody to HDV (IgM anti-HDV),
  - Or positive HDV RNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR),
  - Or positive total antibody (IgM and IgG) to HDV (anti-HDV).

**Epidemiological criteria for case classification**

Not applicable.

**Case classification**

**Confirmed:**
A person with confirmatory clinical criteria and laboratory criteria.

**Probable:**
A person with presumptive clinical criteria and laboratory criteria.

**Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports**

Not applicable.
Comments

Report all available liver enzyme results for every case under liver function tests (Merlin disease code: 00000).

See graphic for additional information related to the serological course of disease.