Hepatitis D Now Recognized as Carcinogenic

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have now confirmed that hepatitis D virus (HDV) can cause cancer in humans. This puts it in the same high-risk category as hepatitis B and C, both of which are already known to cause liver cancer.



Hepatitis D is different from other types because it cannot infect people on its own—it can only occur in those who already have hepatitis B. The virus needs hepatitis B to survive and multiply. This is why getting vaccinated against hepatitis B is the best way to prevent hepatitis D.

Both viruses spread through contact with infected blood or body fluids, such as during unprotected sex, sharing needles, or unsafe medical treatments.

If a person has both hepatitis B and D, their risk of developing liver cancer is two to six times higher than with hepatitis B alone

Viral hepatitis types B, C, and D affect over 300 million people worldwide, causing more than 1.3 million deaths annually, mostly due to liver damage and cancer.

It's estimated that someone dies from a serious hepatitis-related illness or liver cancer every 30 seconds

WHO also highlights that treatment for hepatitis C can cure the disease within 2–3 months and that long-term suppression of hepatitis B is possible, while therapies for hepatitis D are still evolving.

This highlights the vital importance of hepatitis B vaccination. By protecting individuals from hepatitis B infection, the vaccine also eliminates the possibility of contracting hepatitis D. With one shot, you can prevent two dangerous liver diseases and cut your risk of liver cancer.

