

- ❖ Afterward, these multimeric linear transcripts are cleaved into monomers by autocatalytic self-cleaving sequences called ribozymes
 - ❖ Subsequently, monomer RNAs are ligated by the ribozyme into an antigenomic, monomeric, circular RNA that serves as a template for another round of rolling-circle replication.
 - ❖ Interestingly, HBV envelope proteins are made in excess so, even when HBV is suppressed, additional HDV virions can still be assembled
 - ❖ The HDV virion is released via the trans-Golgi network, where it can go on to infect other hepatocytes
- Pathogenicity to the host, clinical characteristics of the disease.

Pathogenicity

- ❖ Infection can occur due to contact with the blood or body fluids containing blood
- ❖ The pathogenesis of HDV is also thought to be influenced by the interaction of HDV with HBV. HDV infection is known to occur either as a coinfection or a superinfection. Coinfection with HBV/HDV usually eradicates both the organisms and often results in complete recovery, while a superinfection frequently progresses into chronic hepatitis D infection.
- ❖ HDV replicates only in the hepatocytes. The cellular damage associated with HDV infection thus involves mainly the liver. Immuno-mediated liver damage is thought to be implicated in HDV infection.

Clinical Features

- ❖ After 3-7 weeks, nonspecific clinical symptoms, including fatigue, lethargy, nausea, anorexia, joint pain, and abdominal pain begin and last for about 3-7 days.
- ❖ Jaundice occurs in the next phase, Fatigue and nausea usually continue, and the serum bilirubin level becomes abnormal. At the same time, the infected person may have a clay-colored stool and dark urine. This is evidence of the liver's diminished ability to excrete bilirubin.

Methods of prevention and treatment

- ❖ + Get vaccinated: There's a vaccine for hepatitis B that all children should receive. Adults who are at high risk for infection, such as those who use intravenous drugs, should also be vaccinated.
- ❖ + Avoid using recreational drugs that can be injected: Such as heroin, cocaine,...