

Hepatitis D - Also called delta hepatitis, it is caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV). A Person cannot be infected with HDV without current or simultaneous infection with hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis D infections is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in recipients of multiple blood transfusions, including patients with hemophilia or who are undergoing renal dialysis, and among those who share contaminated needles.

Hepatitis E - Also referred to as enterically transmitted non-A, non-B hepatitis, hepatitis E is caused by a waterborne virus (HEV). It is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in developing countries. Hepatitis E infection results in an acute infection like hepatitis A. It does not cause chronic infection. It is spread by fecal contamination in water.

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) - Liver cancer.

Hepatocytes - Liver cells.

Hepatologist - A doctor who specializes in the study and treatment of liver disease.

Immunoglobulin - One of a family of closely related, though not identical, proteins capable of acting as antibodies.

Immunology - The branch of medicine that focuses on the immune system, immunity and allergy.

Jaundice - Yellowing of the skin and whites of eyes.

Laparoscopic biopsy - A medical procedure performed when a tube (laparoscope) is inserted through an incision in the abdomen and a piece of tissue is removed.

Lipid - Component of fat.

Lipoproteins - A complex of lipids and proteins that carries lipids around the body.

Liver - The largest glandular organ in the body. Its many functions include but are not limited to the production of protein and cholesterol, the production of bile, the storage of sugar in the form of glycogen and the breakdown of carbohydrates, fats and proteins. The liver also breaks down and excretes many medications.

Malaise - Discomfort, uneasiness; often indicates infection.

Nucleoside analogues - A class of HIV medications.

Pancreas - A long, irregularly-shaped gland lying behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and produces insulin.

Pathologist - A specialist in diagnosing the abnormal changes in tissues removed at operations and postmortem examinations.

Perinatal - Concerning the period beginning after the 28th week of pregnancy through 28 days following birth.

Perinatal transmission - Transmission of an infectious disease from mother to infant. It can happen in the uterus, or during or after birth.

Peripheral edema - Fluid buildup in the feet and ankles.

Phospholipid - A phosphorous-containing lipid found in cell membranes.

Polymerase inhibitors - A compound that stops an essential enzyme needed for viral replication.

Portal hypertension - High pressure in the liver, intestines and spleen.

Prophylaxis - A type of treatment to prevent disease or stop it from spreading.