



## EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HEPATITIS B VIRUS

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**Abstract:**

*The aim of this editorial is to aware the peoples. In the preparation of this editorial the help was taken from published literature in National and International Journals. Hepatitis B is a viral disease caused by Hepatitis B virus (HBV). It is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide..*

**Key words:**

Hepatitis B Virus,

**Introduction :**

The HBV is found in all parts of the body, its concentration is high in blood while in saliva the HBV is in lowest concentration<sup>1</sup>. The incubation period of the HBV depends on the concentration of the virus, host factor and the mode of transmission and it may vary between six weeks and six months, while the average period is two to three months. The virus infects the liver cell. In the liver it multiplies and releases the large amount of HBsAg. In the blood of peoples with active infection the HBsAg is always present. The deaths of liver cell are occurred due to host immune response because the virus itself is not cytophatic<sup>2</sup>. The transmission of the HBV is occurred through exposure to infected blood or bodily fluids, unprotected sexual intercourse, tattoos, injecting drug use, acupuncture, body piercing, contaminated medical, dental or other instruments, vertically from mother to child, and percutaneously. Those individual who change their sexual partner frequently, particularly commercial sex worker and men who have sex with men<sup>3,4,5</sup>. The HBV is a subclinical illness, between 30% to 50% adults and less than 10% children experiencing symptoms. The symptom of the HBV include, abdominal pain, anorexia, nausea, vomiting and occasionally mild fever, jaundice with dark urine and pale stool<sup>3</sup>. The chronic liver disease and cirrhosis occurred in chronic infection twenty to 25% and lead to liver cancer. For acute hepatitis B there is no specific treatment. But the supportive intervention and aim of treatment of chronic hepatitis B is to prevent liver cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma. In the treatment of chronic hepatitis adefovir, lamivudine and interferon are option and it should be initiated by a specialist and follow national guidelines<sup>6</sup>. The hepatitis B can be prevent, avoid acupuncture, tattooing, piercing, unprotected sexual intercourse, do not share needles, carry a sterile medical kit and follow universal precautions if working in a medical/dental/high risk setting.

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