

Table 6.1. Characteristics of Hepatitis Viruses: Pathogenesis/Etiology/Disease Course

	HAV	HBV	HCV	HDV	HEV
Classification	Picornavirus	Hepadnavirus	Flaviviridae family	Small defective RNA virus, infects with HBV	Calicivirus or alpha-virus family
Mode of transmission	Fecal–oral, <i>rarely</i> : percutaneous	Percutaneous, sexual, perinatal	Percutaneous, <i>rarely</i> : sexual, perinatal	Percutaneous, sexual, perinatal	Fecal–oral
Prophylaxis	Ig, vaccine	HBIG, vaccine	None	None (HBV vaccine for susceptible)	None
Incubation days	15–50	30–180	15–160	21–140	14–63
<i>Clinical features</i>					
Chronic infection	No	1–10%, up to 90% in neonates	80–90%	Common	No
Carrier state	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Severity of symptoms	Usually mild, age dependent	Moderate	Asymptomatic to mild	May be severe	Usually mild
Fulminant hepatitis	<0.1%	1%	Rare	Up to 20% in superinfection	10–20% in pregnant women
Hepatocellular carcinoma	No	Yes	Yes	?	No

Adapted from *Harrison's Manual of Medicine*; Fauci AS, Braunwald E, Kasper DL, et al. eds. 2009; New York, NY: The McGraw Hill Companies; 1264 pgs. Table 161-1.

HAV, hepatitis A virus; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HDV, hepatitis D virus; HEV, hepatitis E virus; Ig, immune globulin.

Table 6.2. Acute Hepatitis Virus Infection Epidemiology (2009) in the United States

	HAV	HBV	HCV
Acute cases	1987	3371	781
Incidence rate per 100,000	0.6	1.1	0.3
New infections	21,000	38,000	16,000
% with jaundice	68.8	79.9	74.7
% hospitalized	39.3	46.7	56.2
% died	0.9	1.3	0.4

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Statistics/2009Surveillance/Commentary.htm#bkgrndl>.