

## **Hepatitis B. The Disease**

It is more prevalent than AIDS world-wide.

It can result from infection from a number of viruses, including the hepatitis A virus (infectious hepatitis), Hepatitis B or HBV (Serum hepatitis), Cytomegalovirus, and the Epstein – Barr virus. The hepatitis delta virus can be found in persons positive for hepatitis B Surface Antigen, and is thought to follow the same transmission as HBV.

There are also none A none B viruses.

Majority of hepatitis B cases are due to exposure to infected blood.

HBV carriers are at risk of long term sequelae such as chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and + liver cancer. A more common outcome than death is severe life long debilitation.

HVB can be easily transmitted. A dentist (Carrier of the disease) passed it on to nine of his patients, two of which died later.

HVB is capable of being transmitted much more readily via parenteral & non parenteral routes.

The risk of contracting hepatitis B is 3 times greater for dentists than for the general population.

### **Precaution**

The barrier precautions gloves, masks, eyewear.. etc are required for preventing transmission of none A none B & HBV.

There is also a vaccine against hepatitis B. Immunization is done in a series of three injection over six months period. It is specific for HBV.