Hepatitis D Virus

Virology:
- Defective virus
- Cannot replicate by its own
- It requires helper virus
- The helper virus is HBV
- HBV provides HBsAg to HDV
- HDV uses the HBsAg protein as an external coat
- HDV is 36-nm in diameter
- Composed of outer coat (HBsAg)
- The inner core contains delta-Ag
- ss-RNA genome (Circular)
Hepatitis D Virus (Continued)

Transmission:
- Parenterally
- Similar to HBV

Types of Infections:
1. Co-infection:
   - The patient is infected with HBV and HDV at the same time
   - Leads to severe acute hepatitis
   - Self-limiting
Hepatitis D Virus (Continued)

2. Super infection:
   - Delta virus infects those who are already have chronic hepatitis B
   - Leads to severe chronic hepatitis

Lab Diagnosis:
   - Detection of IgM to HDV