

# DELTA HEPATITIS: INCIDENCE, PROGNOSIS AND PREVENTION

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Simultaneous with the endemicity of the infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) - more than 15% of the Romanian population has markers of HBV, interhuman circulation of the hepatitis D virus (HDV) shows alarming levels (7-12% of our country's population is infected with HDV). The coinfection HBV+HDV is often found in lethal fulminating acute hepatitis, while the superinfection with HDV increases the rate of chronic evolution of B type hepatitis from 10-15% to 50-80%. Serologic markers for HBV, HDV and HCV have been determined in 124 patients with chronic hepatitis admitted in our department between 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1992 and 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1993. Out the group of 124 chronic hepatitis, 42 cases showed markers for HBV and HDV, 33 cases had HBV, 17 cases HCV, 5 cases HBV+HCV. In 27 cases the serology was negative (alcoholic or toxic chronic hepatitis). Confronting the clinical aspects with the results of the serologic diagnosis, it came out that the most severe clinical forms (chronic active hepatitis and decompensated cirrhosis) occurred when HBV was associated with HDV. The vaccination against HBV, efficient against infection as well, is an essential attitude for preventing the hepatitis with delta agent.