

# ABSTRACT FORM FOR ISG

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Title: (CAPITAL LETTERS) HEPATITIS D VIRUS INFECTION IN  
NORTH INDIAN POPULATION

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Abstract The delta agent is an incomplete RNA virus (HDV) which replicates only in the presence of hepatitis B virus (HBV). HDV is considered rare in orientals though its exact prevalence amongst Indian patients is not yet known. Eighty four patients with HBV infection were tested for HDV antibodies using RIA kits from Abbott's Laboratory USA. This includes HBsAg<sup>+</sup> patients of acute viral hepatitis (17) fulminant hepatitis (23), sub-acute hepatitis (25) and chronic active hepatitis (17). The co-infection rate (IgM anti-HBc positive cases) in these groups was 36.4%, 7.1%, 11.1% and 0% respectively whereas the super infection rate (IgM anti-HBc negative cases) in corresponding groups was 0%, 22.2%, 27.8% and 20% respectively. This study shows the presence of HDV infection in significant number of HBV patients in India. Superinfection was found to be associated with more severe form of liver disease and HDV infection seems to alter the natural history of HBV infection