

## INTRODUCTION

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Viral hepatitis, formerly a most elusive syndrome, is becoming a disease model that provides consideration insight into host-viral interactions. (John A. Payne 1982).

Viral hepatitis is a systemic infectious disease affecting predominantly the liver causing characteristic lesions. It is caused by more than one virus. (According to Rhodes and Van Rooyen, 1968, Acton et al, 1974, Messih et al, 1976, and John A. Payne, 1982). The term viral hepatitis includes hepatitis caused by type A virus (HAV), the presumed etiological agent of infectious hepatitis and type B virus (HBV), which is associated with serum hepatitis. The insights permit a rational approach to the diagnosis and treatment of these infections, suggest a role for the HBV in a number of immune complex disorders and provide strong evidence that the HBV is a major cause of hepatocellular carcinoma. The agents of "infectious" (HAV) and "serum" (HBV) are not only the cause of hepatitis syndrome in man.

Hepatitis due to other specific viruses such as coxackie virus, yellow fever, herpes simplex, rubella, cytomegalovirus, infectious mononucleosis, mumps ... etc. Non A non B hepatitis represent 60 - 90% of post transfusion hepatitis. (Harvey & Alter, 1978)

In this essay we will deal with a study of viral hepatitis.