Clinical Findings in Hepatitis:

Feature	Viral Hepatitis Type A	Viral Hepatitis Type B	Viral Hepatitis Type C
Incubation period	10–50 days (avg, 25–30)	50–180 days (avg, 60–90)	15–160 days (avg, 50)
Principal age distribution	Children, young adults	15–29 years, babies	Adults
Seasonal incidence	Throughout the year but tends to peak in autumn	Throughout the year	Throughout the year
Route of infection	Predominantly fecal-oral	Predominantly parenteral	Predominantly parenteral
Occurrence of virus			
Blood	2 weeks before to 1 week after jaundice	Months to years	Months to years
Stool	2 weeks before to 2 weeks after jaundice	Absent	Probably absent
Urine	Rare	Absent	Probably absent
Saliva, semen	Rare (saliva)	Frequently present	Present (saliva)
Clinical and laboratory features			
Onset	Abrupt	Insidious	Insidious
Fever > 38 °C (100.4 °F)	Common	Less common	Less common
Duration of aminotransferase elevation	1–3 weeks	1–6+ months	1–6+ months
Immunoglobulins (IgM levels)	Elevated	Normal to slightly elevated	Normal to slightly elevated
Complications	Uncommon, no chronicity	Chronicity in 5–10% (95% of neonates)	Chronicity in 70–90%
Mortality rate (icteric cases)	< 0.5%	< 1–2%	0.5–1%
HBsAg	Absent	Present	Absent
Immunity			
Homologous	Yes	Yes	Probably no
Heterologous	No	No	No
Duration	Probably lifetime	Probably lifetime	?
Immune globulin intramuscular (IG, gamma globulin, ISG)	Regularly prevents jaundice	Prevents jaundice only if immune globulin is of sufficient potency against HBV	?

Interpretation HAV, HCV and HDV Serologic Markers in patients with Hepatitis:

Assay Results	Interpretation
Anti-HAV IgM-positive	Acute infection with HAV
Anti-HAV IgG-positive	Past infection with HAV
Anti-HCV-positive	Current or past infection with HCV
Anti-HDV-positive, HBsAg-positive	Infection with HDV
Anti-HDV-positive, anti-HBc IgM-positive	Coinfection with HDV and HBV
Anti-HDV-positive, anti-HBc IgM-negative	Superinfection of chronic HBV infection with HDV