whereas perinatal transmission is the most common mode of transmission of children (Jensen and Balistereri, 2016). Recent improvements in donor screening and inactivation procedures for blood products, such as the factor concentrates used for hemophilia patients, have significantly reduced the risk of transmission through blood products.

The clinical course is variable. The incubation period for HCV ranges from 2 to 24 weeks, with an average of 7 to 9 weeks (Jensen and Balistereri, 2016). The natural history of the disease in children is not well defined. Some children may be asymptomatic, but hepatitis C can become a chronic condition and can cause cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. About 85% of individuals infected with HCV develop chronic disease (Jensen and Balistereri, 2016).

Hepatitis D

Hepatitis D occurs rarely in children and must occur in individuals already infected with HBV (Clemente and Schwarz, 2011). Hepatitis D virus (HDV) is a defective RNA virus that requires the helper function of HBV. The incubation period is 2 to 8 weeks but with co-infection of HBV, the incubation period is similar to an HBV infection (Jensen and Balistereri, 2016). HDV infection occurs through blood and sexual contact and commonly occurs among drug abusers, individuals with hemophilia, and persons immigrating from endemic areas.

Hepatitis E

Hepatitis E was formerly known as non-A, non-B hepatitis. Transmission may occur through the fecal–oral route or from contaminated water. The incubation period ranges from 15 to 60 days, with an average of 40 days (Jensen and Balistereri, 2016). This illness is uncommon in children, does not cause chronic liver disease, is not a chronic condition, and has no carrier state. However, it can be a devastating disease among pregnant women, with an unusually high fatality rate.

Pathophysiology

Pathologic changes occur primarily in the parenchymal cells of the liver and result in variable degrees of swelling; infiltration of liver