METHOD ARTICLE

Mathematical model and analysis of hepatitis B virus transmission dynamics [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

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Abstract
Hepatitis B is a liver infection induced by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). In this paper, the dynamics involved in the transmission of HBV is mathematically formulated with considerations of different populations of individuals. The role of HBV vaccination of new born babies and the treatment of infected individuals in controlling the transmission are factored into the model. The model in this study is based on the standard SEIR model.

Keywords
Hepatitis B virus (HBV); Disease-free equilibrium; Endermic equilibrium state; Stability analysis

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Introduction
Hepatitis B (HB) is a potentially life-threatening liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV), which is a DNA virus classified in the virus family of Hepadnaviridae. The World Health Organization (WHO) in 1 reported that more than 0.25 billion people are living with HBV infection, most of which resulted in several deaths.

A vaccine against HB has been available since 1982, nevertheless there is still an increase in its transmission and spread. Key facts from 1 reveal that HBV can survive outside the human body for at least 7 days, and during this period HBV can still cause infection if it enters any unimmunized human body. Most HB carriers are asymptomatic during the acute infection phase, nonetheless some people experience acute illness that can last for several days with variations in the progression.

The use of mathematical models in scientific research has improved our understanding of contributing factors. Mathematical model of HBV has ranged from simple models2,3 to more complex models involving the contributions of controls (e.g. vaccines)4, and analysis of the impact of immigrant5.

Motivated by other HB studies, we use an infectious disease model to understand the impact of HB vaccination and treatment on the dynamics of HBV transmission and prevalence using an SEIR format.

Methods
Mathematical model
A variety of mathematical models exist, such as the SIR, SIS, SIRS, and their variations; where S=Susceptible class, I=Infective class, and R=Recovered class. The model used in this study takes the form of SEIR based on ordinary differential equations, which shall be solved to obtain the disease-free equilibrium (DFE) state.

Governing equations
Table 1 lists the parameters used. Figure 1 shows a schematic presentation of the model.

We formulate the HB transmission model as follows:

\[ \frac{dM(t)}{dt} = cP - \phi M(t) - \beta M(t) \]  
\[ \frac{dS(t)}{dt} = (1 - c)P + \phi M(t) + \pi R(t) - (kI(t) + \beta)S(t) \]  
\[ \frac{dL(t)}{dt} = kS(t)I(t) - qL(t) - \mu L(t) - \beta L(t) \]  
\[ \frac{dI(t)}{dt} = \mu L(t) - \psi I(t) - \eta I(t) - \beta I(t) \]  
\[ \frac{dR(t)}{dt} = qL(t) - \psi I(t) - \pi R(t) - \beta R(t) \]  
\[ N(t) = M(t) + S(t) + L(t) + I(t) + R(t) \]

where \( M \) = immunized individuals, \( S \) = susceptible, \( L \) = latently infected/exposed, \( I \) = infectious individuals, and \( R \) = recovered.

Equilibrium solutions
Let \( E(M, S, L, I, R) \) be the equilibrium point of the system described by (1)–(6). At the equilibrium state, we have

\[ \frac{dM}{dt} = \frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{dL}{dt} = \frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{dR}{dt} = 0. \]  
i.e.,

\[ cP - \phi M - \beta M = 0 \]  
\[ cP - (\phi + \beta)M = 0 \]  
\[ (1 - c)P + \phi M + \pi R - kSI - \beta S = 0 \]  
\[ (1 - c)P + \phi M + \pi R - (kI + \beta)S = 0 \]  
\[ kSI - qL - \mu L - \beta L = 0 \]  
\[ kSI - (q + \mu + \beta)L = 0 \]  
\[ \mu L - \psi I - \eta I - \beta I = 0 \]  
\[ \mu L - (\psi + \eta + \beta)I = 0 \]  
\[ qL - \psi I - \pi R - \beta R = 0 \]  
\[ qL + \psi I - (\pi + \beta)R = 0 \]

In order to obtain the DFE state we solve equation (7)–equation (15) simultaneously.
Existence of a trivial equilibrium state (TES)
Let $E_o (M_o, S_o, L_o, I_o, R_o)$ be TES of (1)–(6) of the model, $\exists$ no TES since the population cannot be extinct, so long as new babies are born into the population (i.e. $cP \neq 0$ and $(1-c)P \neq 0$).

That is, $E_o (M_o, S_o, L_o, I_o, R_o) \neq (0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$

**DFE state**
DFE state is the state of total eradication of disease. Let $E^o (M^o, S^o, L^o, I^o, R^o)$ be the DFE state. Suppose, both I and L must be zero. That is, for DFE state:

$$I^o = L^o = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Substituting $I = L = 0$ into equation (7)–equation (11) and solving simultaneously we have:

From Equation (7):

$$cP - (\phi + \beta)M = 0$$

$$M^o = \frac{cP}{\phi + \beta}$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

From Equation (9)

$$(1-c)P + \frac{\phi cP}{\phi + \beta} + \pi R - \beta S = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

From Equation (11)

$$qL + \psi I - (\pi + \beta)R = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\pi + \beta)R = 0\text{ (since } L = I = 0)$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

$$\Rightarrow \text{Either } (\pi + \beta) = 0 \text{ Or } R = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

Since $\pi$ and $\beta$ are positive constants, $(\pi + \beta) \neq 0$.

Therefore, $R^o = 0$.

If $R = 0$, Equation (9) becomes

$$(1-c)P + \frac{\phi cP}{\phi + \beta} - \beta S = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow S^o = \frac{(\phi + \beta)(1-c)P + \phi cP}{\beta(\phi + \beta)}$$

or

$$S^o = \frac{\phi + \beta - c\beta P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)}$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

Therefore the DFE state of the model is

$$E^o (M^o, S^o, L^o, I^o, R^o) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{cP}{\phi + \beta}, \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta P)}{\beta(\phi + \beta)}, 0, 0, 0 \end{array} \right)$$

**Stability analysis of the DFE state**
To determine the stability of the DFE state $E^o$, we examine the behavior of the model population near this equilibrium solution. Here, we determine condition(s) that must be met if the disease is to be totally eradicated.

Recall that the system of equations in this model at equilibrium state is:

$$cP - (\phi + \beta)M = 0$$

$$(1-c)P + \phi M + \pi R - (kl + \beta)S = 0$$

$$kS - (q + \mu + \beta)L = 0$$

$$\mu L - (\psi + \beta + \eta)I = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)

$$qL + \psi I - (\pi + \beta)R = 0$$

We now linearize the system of equations to get the Jacobian matrix $J$.

$$J = \begin{bmatrix}
\omega_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
\phi & \omega_2 & -kS^o & \pi \\
0 & kl^o & \omega_3 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \omega_4 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & q & \psi & \omega_1
\end{bmatrix}$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

where

$$\omega_1 = -(\phi + \beta), \omega_2 = -(kI^o + \beta), \omega_3 = -(q + \mu + \beta), \omega_4 = -(\psi + \beta + \eta), \omega_5 = -(\pi + \beta)$$

At the disease-free equilibrium, $E^o (M^o, S^o, L^o, I^o, R^o)$, the Jacobian Matrix becomes

$$J = \begin{bmatrix}
\omega_6 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
\phi & -\beta & 0 & \omega_7 & \pi \\
0 & kl^o & \omega_8 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \omega_9 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & q & \psi & \omega_11
\end{bmatrix}$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

where

$$\omega_6 = -(\phi + \beta), \omega_7 = -(\phi + \beta - c\beta P)^{\lambda}, \omega_8 = -(q + \mu + \beta), \omega_9 = k(\phi + \beta - c\beta P)^{\lambda}, \omega_{10} = -(\psi + \beta + \eta), \omega_{11} = (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)$$

The characteristic equation $|J - \lambda I| = 0$ is obtained from the Jacobian determinant with the Eigen values $\lambda_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$

$$(\lambda^3 + (\phi + 2\beta)\lambda + (\phi\beta + \beta^2)(-\pi - \beta - \lambda))[X] = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (26)

where

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix}
-(q + \mu + \beta) - \lambda & -k(\phi + \beta - c\beta P)^{\lambda} \\
\mu & -(\psi + \beta + \eta) - \lambda
\end{bmatrix}$$

From Equation (26), either

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix}
-(q + \mu + \beta) - \lambda & -k(\phi + \beta - c\beta P)^{\lambda} \\
\mu & -(\psi + \beta + \eta) - \lambda
\end{bmatrix} = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (27)

or

$$\lambda = -(\pi + \beta)$$  \hspace{1cm} (29)
\[ \lambda_2 = -\beta \]
and
\[ \lambda_1 = -(\phi + \beta) \]  \hspace{1cm} (30)

Let
\[ A = \begin{bmatrix} -(q + \mu + \beta) - \lambda & -k \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} \\ -k \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} & -\psi + \beta + \eta - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \]

For the DFE to be asymptotically stable, \( \text{trace}(A) < 0 \) and \( \det A > 0 \).

\[ \det A = (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta + \lambda) - k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} \]

And the trace of \( A \) is
\[ \text{Trace}(A) = -(q + \mu + \beta + \lambda) - (\psi + \beta + \eta + \lambda) \]

Obviously, \( \text{trace}(A) < 0 \) since all the parameters \( q, \mu, \beta, \psi, \beta \) and \( \eta \) are positive.

For the determinant of \( A \) to be positive, we must have
\[ (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta + \lambda) - k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} > 0 \]
or
\[ (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta) > k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (32)

From equation (29)—equation (31), \( \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \) of (25) all have negative real parts. We now establish the necessary and sufficient conditions for the remaining two Eigen values of (25) to have negative real part. The remaining two Eigen values of equation (25) will have negative real part if and only if \( \det A > 0 \), i.e.
\[ (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta) > k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} \]

The Routh-Hurwitz theorem states that the equilibrium state will be asymptotically stable if and only if all the Eigen values of the characteristic equation \( |J - \lambda I| = 0 \) have negative real part. Using this theorem we see that the DFE of this model will be asymptotically stable if and only if
\[ (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta) > k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} \]

or
\[ k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)} < (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta) \]  \hspace{1cm} (33)

The inequality (32) gives the condition, necessary and sufficient for the DFE state of the model to be stable (asymptotically). This means that the product of total contraction and total breakdown of latent class given by \( (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta) \) must be less than the total removal rate from both latent and infectious classes given by \( (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda)(\psi + \beta + \eta) \).

Alternatively, the inequality (32) can also be expressed as
\[ (q + \mu + \beta + \lambda) > k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)(\psi + \beta + \eta)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (34)

The inequality (33) also gives the condition necessary and sufficient for the stability of DFE state, thus sum of the rate of recovery of latently infected people, the rate at which latently infected individuals progress to active infection and the rate of natural death of individuals (in the population, i.e. total removal rate from the latent class) must have a lower bound given by
\[ k\mu \frac{(\phi + \beta - c\beta)P}{\beta(\phi + \beta)(\psi + \beta + \eta)} \]

Conclusion

Presented in this paper is a mathematical model of the role of vaccination and treatment on HB transmission dynamics. The proportion dynamics of the classes is described using five differential equations. We conclude that the trivial equilibrium state, \( E(0, S_0, L_0, I_0, R_0) \) is unstable; this is the state where there is no individual in the population. The DFE state, \( E'(M^*, S^*, L^*, P^*, R^*) \), was determined and its stability analysed using Routh-Hurwitz theorem.

Data availability

All data underlying the results are available as part of the article and no additional source data are required.

Competing interests

No competing interests were disclosed.

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References

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