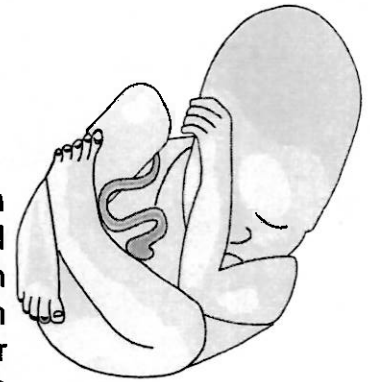


RH FACTOR

What is the Rh factor?

The Rh factor is a protein some people have in their blood, which makes them Rh positive. Some people do not have the factor and those people are Rh negative. On its own, this doesn't cause health problems, but when a mother is Rh negative and the baby is Rh positive, there can be health risks for the fetus. Problems may occur in any pregnancy at any time during the pregnancy. If the baby is Rh positive, there is a possibility that blood might leak into the mother's system. This is most likely to happen at the time of the delivery. The mother's Rh-negative system treats these cells as foreign objects, producing antibodies against them. This results in the mother being "sensitized" to subsequent babies. If the baby is still in the uterus - in future pregnancies - antibodies can enter and destroy some of the baby's red blood cells, leading to anemia, heart failure, and death.



How is it tested?

A simple blood test for your blood type shows if you are Rh negative. This is done early in pregnancy. If you are Rh negative, you will have further testing near your 28th week of pregnancy and after you deliver your baby.

If not treated in the 1st pregnancy, are you are sensitized?

Further evaluation will be necessary and you may be referred to a Perinatal Specialist at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center.

When and how are you treated to prevent sensitization?

Rh sensitization is very rare in this day and age because of Rhogam treatment. You will be treated within 72 hours of delivering an Rh positive baby (or having a miscarriage, abortion or amniocentesis). To protect current and future pregnancies from Rh incompatibility, an injection is given during week 28 of your pregnancy, with a product called Gamulin Rh, RhoGam, or RhoGam immune globulin. This prevents Rh antibodies from forming. It is given to Rh negative women. The fetus or newborn can also receive blood transfusions directly, if necessary. This shot WILL NOT harm you or the fetus.

If my baby's father's blood type is Rh negative, do I still need a rhogam shot?

If the father of the baby is Rh negative, you don't need a shot. Your provider may require a blood test of the father.

get form updated.

~~Mt. Timpanogos Women's Health Care~~

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