



Human Anti-D Immunoglobulin (WinRho®)

You're pregnant and you have a negative (-) blood group. The professional monitoring your pregnancy has recommended you be given an injection of human anti-D immunoglobulin (WinRho®).

Why?

During your pregnancy or delivery, some of your baby's blood may cross the placenta and come in contact with your blood.

If your baby's blood group is positive (+), your body may misinterpret your baby's red blood cells as foreign bodies and start producing antibodies that your body will store in memory (**illustration 1 and 2**).

If this is an initial contact, your baby will likely not be affected, since this phenomenon usually happens during delivery.

However, if during your next pregnancy, your baby's blood group is positive (+), your antibodies may get into their blood and destroy their red blood cells (**illustration 3**).

Your baby may then develop anemia (reduction in red blood cells in their blood) or jaundice. Rarely, in the most severe cases, this can result in death.

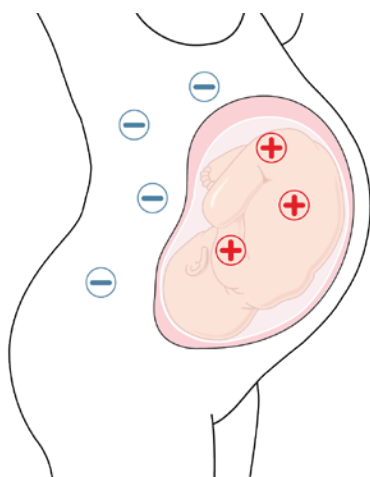


Illustration 1 ©CHUM

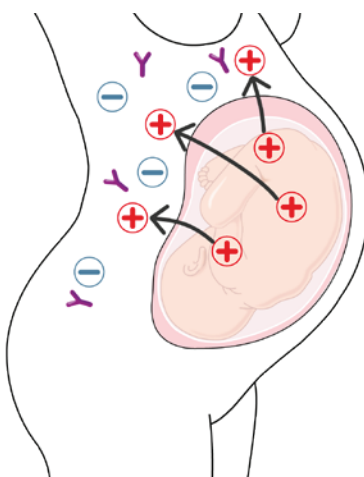


Illustration 2 ©CHUM

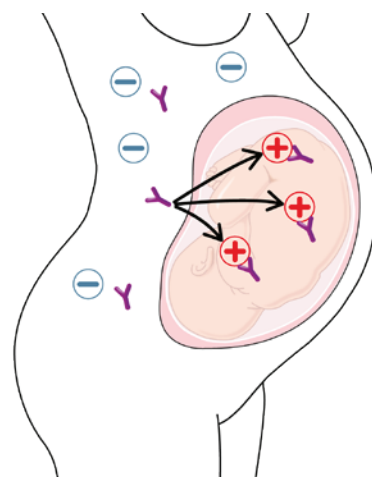


Illustration 3 ©CHUM



How can this complication be prevented?

The only solution is to routinely administer WinRho® with each pregnancy.

What is WinRho®?

WinRho® is an immunoglobulin (blood protein that acts as an antibody to fight microbes) prepared from the blood of human donors. This product is given by muscle injection. WinRho® prevents the pregnant person from producing antibodies against their baby's positive blood group, which protects future pregnancies.

Is WinRho® safe?

Administering WinRho® is safe. The donors undergo a thorough selection process as well as tests to detect the presence of certain viruses. It is impossible to completely eliminate the risk of transmitting viral diseases, but this risk is significantly reduced by the manufacturing process that inactivates and eliminates certain viruses.

When is the administration of WinRho® indicated?

- In cases where pregnant persons have a negative blood group:
 - o 1st dose: At 28 weeks of pregnancy to ensure that the immunoglobulins are effective until delivery.
 - o 2nd dose: within 72 hours following delivery if the baby's blood group is positive or undetermined.

- Pregnant persons with a negative blood group must be routinely given WinRho® as quickly as possible in the following circumstances:
 - o Spontaneous abortion (miscarriage), voluntary abortion or threatened abortion.
 - o Abdominal trauma.
 - o Heavy bleeding during pregnancy.
 - o Pregnancy outside the uterus (ectopic pregnancy).
 - o External cephalic version (manually moving the baby into head-down position), an amniocentesis, etc.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects of WinRho® are rare and are usually minor and short-lived. For example:

- Mild discomfort or swelling at the injection site.
- Chills or a mild fever.

Very rarely, an allergic reaction may occur in the form of tingling in the throat, a cough, skin rash or difficulty breathing. Patients must be monitored for 30 minutes following injection of this product.

Questions?

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask your health professional.

This document does not replace a consultation with your health professional.