

WHAT IS RH DISEASE?

If you have Rh negative blood type (A-, B-, O-, or AB-), you may have heard about Rh disease in pregnancy. This can occur when an Rh negative woman is carrying an Rh positive fetus. In this circumstance, the mother's blood system produces abnormal antibodies that cross the placenta and attack the baby's blood cells, leading to anemia in the baby or even stillbirth. This disease can be prevented by treating all Rh negative women during pregnancy with a preparation called rhogam. Rhogam is administered by injection at 28 weeks and after delivery. It is also important that all Rh negative women receive rhogam in the event of miscarriage, ectopic (tubal) pregnancy or elective abortion.

WHAT IS RHOGAM?

Rhogam is a purified antibody preparation that is made from human donors. Receiving rhogam is NOT the same as receiving blood transfusion. No cases of hepatitis, HIV or other communicable diseases have been reported from rhogam administration. Rhogam injections have been administered for many years with an excellent safety profile. The incidence of Rh disease in this country has dropped dramatically since rhogam has been routinely administered. If you have further questions about this topic, please do not hesitate to discuss them with your provider.

WHEN WILL I GET MY RHOGAM INJECTION?

You will receive your injection at your 28 week visit in the office.

Glucose Tolerance Test

Around 24-28 weeks of pregnancy, your doctor will likely screen you for gestational diabetes. Gestational diabetes is a form of diabetes that may develop during pregnancy. Gestational diabetes is distinguished from other types of diabetes because it occurs during pregnancy, it was not diagnosed prior to pregnancy, and it usually, but not always, disappears.

One Hour Glucose Test

For the one hour glucose test no fasting is required. When you arrive to the office, you will receive 50 grams of high glucose solution. You will usually be offered several different flavor options such as orange and fruit punch. You should consume the entire beverage within 5 minutes. You should be aware that the glucose solution is very sweet and many women will feel nauseous after drinking it. The medical assistant or lab tech will record the time the glucose beverage was given and in one hour you blood will be drawn. You are asked to stay in the office during this hour. If you should feel symptoms of hypoglycemia, such as dizziness, weakness, sweating, or hunger, at any time during the test inform a medical assistant.

Results of the one hour glucose tolerance test

If your blood glucose level exceeds 135, a three hour glucose tolerance test will be necessary.