

## **What is Rh(D) Immune Globulin (RhD IG) ?**

Rh(D) Immune Globulin (Rhogam®, WinRho®) is a blood product made from human plasma. Plasma is the watery part of blood that has many proteins. Each vial of RhD IG is made from plasma collected from many healthy donors. The plasma is treated to kill viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis. It has a large amount of a protein called Anti-D.

## **Why is it given to pregnant women?**

Most people have a blood type called Rh(D) Positive (Rh+) and the rest are Rh(D) Negative (Rh-). If Rh+ blood cells get into the blood stream of an Rh- person, they may make antibodies to try and destroy the Rh+ red cells. During pregnancy the baby's blood can cross the placenta and get into the mother's blood stream. This can happen any time during pregnancy but is seen more often at the time of delivery or miscarriage. If you are Rh- and your baby is Rh+, your body might make an antibody (Anti-D) to the baby's blood cells. This antibody may not hurt the baby during that pregnancy, but it could pass through the placenta to harm your next baby. This could be serious enough to cause the death of the baby. RhD IG will stop this from happening almost all the time.

## **How is it given?**

RhD IG is usually given as an injection in your hip.

## **When is it given?**

RhD IG is given to a pregnant Rh- woman:

- at the 28<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy
- after delivery, if your baby is Rh+
- if you have bleeding during your pregnancy
- at the time of amniocentesis
- at the time of a miscarriage or termination of pregnancy

One injection of RhD IG is usually effective for at least 6 weeks.

## **What are the risks?**

The risk of getting an infectious disease such as Aids or Hepatitis from RhD IG is extremely small because of the process used to make this product. There is a small risk of having a reaction to this product. You may have:

- soreness or light swelling at the injection site
- a headache
- chills
- a fever
- an allergic reaction (rash, hives)



Rh (D)  
IMMUNE GLOBULIN  
DURING PREGNANCY

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