Rh Negative Blood and Pregnancy

Rh negative (Rh-) blood means that a person does not have a protein on the surface of their red blood cells. If you have the protein, you are Rh positive (Rh+). Your doctor will test you during pregnancy for this.

What You Need To Know

If you have Rh- blood and the baby’s father has Rh+ blood, you might need special care as your baby can have either Rh- blood or Rh+ blood.

• If you have Rh- blood and your baby has Rh+ blood, you will need treatment to protect your baby’s health.
  ▶ Without treatment, your body may make antibodies that may harm your baby.

• There are no risks to a baby’s health if the mother’s and father’s blood are the same for Rh, both Rh+ blood or both Rh- blood.

• There are no risks to the baby’s health if the mother alone has Rh+ blood.

Testing

Tell your doctor if you know you have Rh- blood. If you do not know your blood type, you will have a blood test.

• At 28 weeks your blood will be tested to see if you have Rh- blood.
• If you have Rh- blood, you will be given a medicine called Rhogam. Rhogam is a safe medicine for you and your baby. You will need to have your blood drawn and checked within 3 days of getting this medicine.

**Treatment for Rh**

If you need treatment, your doctor will develop a care plan for you.

• You will be given the Rhogam medicine as an injection or shot. This medicine will prevent Rh antibodies from forming that could harm your baby.

• After birth, hospital staff will test your baby’s blood for Rh.
  
  ▶ If your baby is Rh+, you be given the same medicine within the first 3 days after your baby’s birth.
  
  ▶ If your baby is Rh-, you will not receive medicine.

• Talk with your doctor before you become pregnant again.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.