

RHO(D) IMMUNE GLOBULIN

Planned Parenthood Northern California 1-925-676-0300

What is Rho(D) immune globulin and why do I need it?

You had a test to find out if your blood is Rh positive or Rh negative. You are Rh negative. Rh is a protein on the outside of red blood cells. Most people have it. People with Rh are called "Rh positive." People without it are called "Rh negative."

During pregnancy, blood cells from the fetus can enter your blood. If you are Rh negative and your fetus is Rh positive, your body can develop antibodies against Rh-positive blood. This does not harm you. But it can cause serious problems if you become pregnant again. The antibodies in your body can attack and destroy the blood of another Rh-positive fetus. It can give the fetus very bad anemia. It may also lead to many other serious problems.

Rho(D) immune globulin is a shot that can prevent you from developing antibodies against Rh-positive blood. That is why we recommend that you get it.

Before getting Rho(D) immune globulin, you need to know the most common benefits, risks, side effects, and other choices you have. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

What are the benefits of Rho(D) immune globulin?

- It is a very safe and effective way to prevent you from developing antibodies against Rh-positive blood.

What are the risks of Rho(D) immune globulin?

- **Getting a virus such as hepatitis or HIV** – Because Rho(D) immune globulin is made from a part of blood there is a very small chance of getting a virus such as hepatitis or HIV from the shot. The people who donate the blood are carefully checked for these and other conditions. The medicine is tested for safety while it is being made and again afterwards. **There are no known cases in the U.S. of a woman getting a disease from this medicine.**
- **Having an allergic reaction** – Some women may be allergic to Rho(D) immune globulin.

What are the side effects of Rho(D) immune globulin?

Side effects are rare.

- You may have pain or swelling where you get the shot.
- You might get a slight fever.

Besides Rho(D) immune globulin, what are my other choices?

There is no other medicine to take instead. You could decide to do nothing. But you would be taking a chance. A fetus in any future pregnancy could develop very bad anemia.

What else do I need to know?

Even if you get the Rho(D) immune globulin, there is no guarantee that you won't have problems with a future pregnancy.

Your health is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns. We are happy to help you.