

What is Rhesus (Rh) factor?

Rhesus (Rh) factor is a protein some people have in their blood. If your blood has the protein, you are Rh positive. If your blood does not have the protein, you are Rh negative. Rh positive is the most common blood type.

During pregnancy, blood cells from the fetus can enter your blood. If you are Rh negative and the fetus is Rh positive, your body can develop antibodies (another kind of protein) against Rh-positive blood. It is not likely that this will happen if you are less than 8 weeks pregnant.

If you are Rh positive, this does not happen.

Is it a problem to have Rh antibodies?

This does not harm you, but it can cause serious problems if you get pregnant again. Rh antibodies can attack and destroy the blood of a Rh-positive fetus. It can give the fetus a very bad anemia. It may also lead to many other serious problems.

If you have an abortion at less than 8 weeks of pregnancy, it is very unlikely that you will develop Rh antibodies.

Can Rh antibodies be prevented?

Rho(D) immune globulin is a shot that can stop your body from making antibodies against Rh-positive blood. If you are Rh negative and 8 or more weeks pregnant, this shot is recommended.

Do I need Rh factor testing?

If you are less than 8 weeks pregnant and having an abortion, Rh factor testing is not recommended. This means that if you are Rh negative, you will not get the Rho(D) immune globulin shot.

If you are 8 or more weeks pregnant, Rh factor testing is recommended.

Before choosing not to get Rh factor testing before having an abortion, you need to know the most common benefits, risks, and other choices you have. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

What are the benefits of having an abortion without Rh factor testing if I am less than 8 weeks pregnant?

- You do not need to have the Rh factor test.
- The Rho(D) immune globulin shot is not given.

What are the risks of not having Rh factor testing if I am less than 8 weeks pregnant?

- There is a chance you might make Rh antibodies and have problems with future pregnancies. Research has not proved this.

Besides not having Rh factor testing, what other choices do I have?

You can have Rh factor testing before you have an abortion. This can be done at the clinic or another lab. If you are Rh negative, you will get the Rho(D) immune globulin shot before you have an abortion.

We can talk about your options with you and help you with whatever you decide to do.

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

Signature of Patient (and person authorized to sign for patient when required)

Date

Relationship to Patient: self parent legal guardian other _____

I witness that the patient received this information, said it was read and understood, and there was an opportunity to ask questions.

Signature of Witness

Date