



Anti-D Rh Immunoglobulin

Information for the pregnant person with Rh negative blood type or weak D-positive

WHAT IS HUMAN ANTI-D IMMUNOGLOBULIN ?

It is a safe product obtained from the human plasma (blood) of several carefully selected donors. It contains specific antibodies directed against the antigen D (Rh-positive). This product is administered as a preventive treatment for certain problems related to pregnancy patients whose blood type is Rh-negative or weak D-positive.

WHY SHOULD I RECEIVE THIS PRODUCT?

During pregnancy or birth, the foetus' red blood cells can pass into the pregnant person's blood. This can also happen during an abortion, miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, amniocentesis or any other bleeding from the placenta.

When the blood of a RH-positive foetus enters the blood of a Rh-negative or weak D-positive pregnant person, this person's defence system (immune system) will view the foetus' red cells as « strangers » and will start producing antibodies. These antibodies can penetrate the placenta, destroy the foetus' red cells and cause anemia.

Unfortunately, the antibodies formed in the pregnant person's blood will remain there permanently, causing any future pregnancies to be considered high-risk.

As a precautionary measure, any Rh-negative or weak D pregnant person whose partner belongs to the Rh-positive or unknown group, will be given anti-D immunoglobulin.

HOW DOES HUMAN ANTI-D IMMUNOGLOBULIN WORK?

The anti-D antibodies from human immunoglobulin target the foetus' red blood cells in the pregnant person's blood circulation and help to eliminate them. The pregnant person therefore does not develop her own antibodies. Their effectiveness is about 98%.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF TRANSMITTING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE?

Human immunoglobulin is treated chemically in two stages and is then filtered to minimize the risk of transmitting any virus. No transmission of either a disease or a virus has been reported to date with this product.

WHEN SHOULD I RECEIVE THE ANTI-D IMMUNOGLOBULIN?

- After each abortion or miscarriage;
- During each pregnancy, around the 28th week of pregnancy;
- After giving birth to a RH-positive baby or after an amniocentesis;
- During any other obstetrical condition where a physician judges that there might be a risk that the blood of the foetus has crossed the placenta to reach the blood of the pregnant person.

HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED?

Human anti-D immunoglobulin is administered by intramuscular injection. This must be administered within 72 hours after an abortion or miscarriage.

WHAT IF I CHOOSE NOT TO RECEIVE THE PRODUCT?

You should be aware that there could be significant risks for subsequent pregnancies: anemia, jaundice and other complications that can go as far as fetal death.

Also, if you develop your own anti-D antibodies and are in need of an urgent blood transfusion, the lab may have difficulty finding compatible blood for you.

Currently, there is no known effective alternative to this treatment. If you refuse to receive the product, you will need to sign a “refusal of treatment” form.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects are rare but some people may feel discomfort or a slight swelling at the injection site, or be slightly feverish.

As a precaution, we will ask you to wait fifteen minutes following the administration of the product before leaving the clinic.

If you have ever had a reaction following the administration of blood products in the past, you should notify the nurse or the doctor **BEFORE** receiving the product.

References :

ANTI-D, CISSS de l’Outaouais, Gatineau, version 2020-06-16
Monographie WinRho® SDF, Cangene corporation, Winnipeg