



WinRho and the Rh Factor Information for Patients and Families

If you have any other questions about being Rh negative and WinRho, please ask your doctor.

This brochure will address some of the most frequently asked questions about the administration of WinRho. However, please discuss any questions or concerns you may have with your doctor.

What Is The Rh Factor

- ◆ Rh is one of the many inherited blood group factors present on red blood cells.
- ◆ Rh positive people have the Rh factor while Rh negative individuals do not.

What Does This Mean?

- ◆ When an Rh negative mother is pregnant with an Rh positive baby, some of the baby's blood cells can easily manage to get into the mother's blood circulation.
- ◆ This can occur during child birth, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, therapeutic abortion, or amniocentesis.
- ◆ You may then develop antibodies to this foreign (strange) Rh blood factor.
- ◆ These antibodies may harm your baby in future pregnancies.
- ◆ The antibodies can cross the placenta into the baby's circulation and cause breakdown of the baby's Rh positive cells.
- ◆ This breakdown of the baby's blood cells results in a condition called hemolytic disease of the newborn.

What Preventative Action Can Be Taken?

- ◆ If Rh antibodies are not already present in the blood, it is possible to prevent Rh haemolytic disease of the newborn by the administration of the Rh Immune Globulin (WinRho) to the mother.
- ◆ WinRho would be given to Rh negative mothers who do not have antibodies:
 - Within 72 hours following a miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or therapeutic abortion.
 - Within 72 hours following any attempt to take fluid samples from the uterus (amniocentesis).
 - At 28 week gestation.
 - Within 72 hours following delivery of an Rh positive baby.

What Is Rh Immune Globulin (WinRho) and How Does It Work?

- ◆ Rh Immune Globulin is a blood product containing Rh antibodies prepared from the blood of Rh negative persons who have a high level of Rh antibodies.
- ◆ Rh Immune Globulin destroys the Rh positive red cells that have been transferred from the baby's circulation to your circulation and prevents you from producing your own Rh antibodies. This prevents problems with babies in future pregnancies.
- ◆ Rh Immune Globulin (WinRho) is given as a needle in your muscle or through your intravenous.