Rh Incompatibility in Pregnancy

Rh factor is a protein found on the outside of Rh-positive red blood cells. Rh incompatibility during pregnancy occurs when an Rh-negative mother is pregnant with an Rh-positive fetus. During delivery, the fetus' Rh-positive blood is introduced into the mother's body. The Rh-negative mother's body begins to produce antibodies that attack and kill Rh-positive blood cells. Since the crossover of blood normally occurs during delivery, an Rh-negative woman's first pregnancy is normally not affected. However, the woman's antibodies may attack a second Rh-positive fetus as those antibodies can cross into the bloodstream and destroy fetal Rh-positive blood cells.

Subject
Pregnancy Ortho Diagnostics. Blood group antigens & antibodies as applied to compatibility testing Rh-Hr Blood-Group System Blood Group Incompatibility Fetal Blood

Topic
Processes

Publisher
Arizona State University. School of Life Sciences. Center for Biology and Society. Embryo Project Encyclopedia.

Rights
Copyright Arizona Board of Regents Licensed as Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/

Format
Graphics

Last Modified
Sunday, August 15, 2021 - 23:44

DC Date Accessioned
Sunday, August 15, 2021 - 23:34