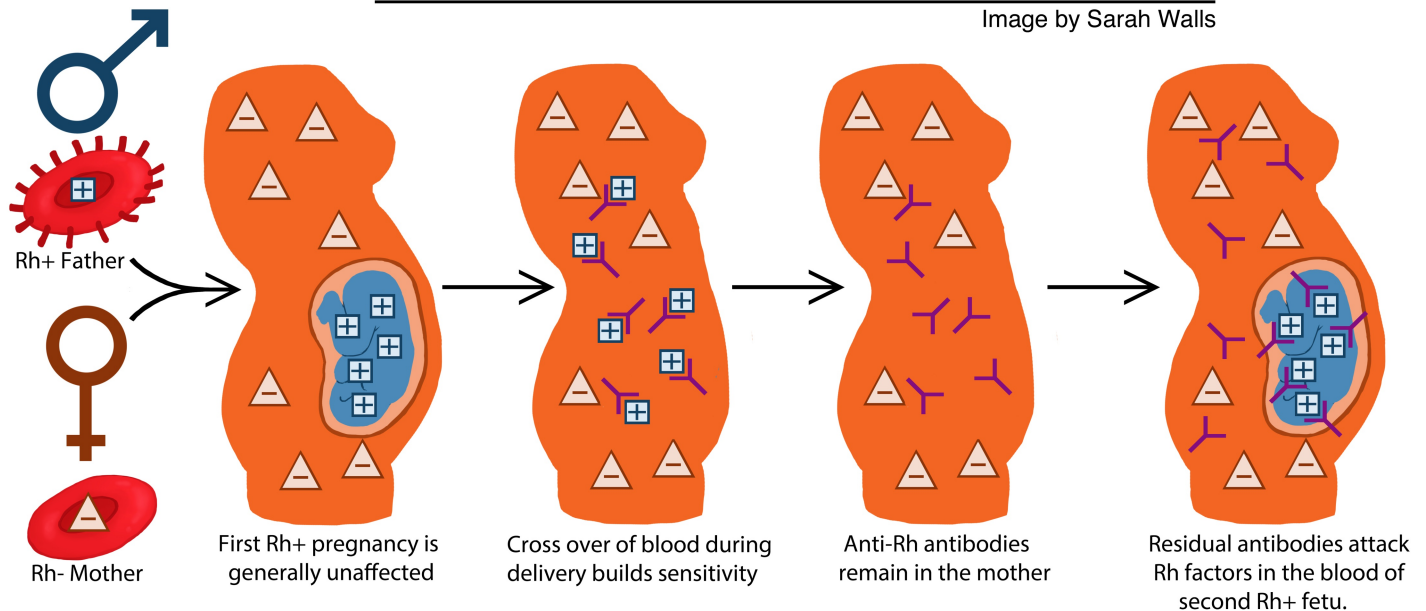


Rh Incompatibility in Pregnancy ^[1]

By: Walls, Sarah Keywords: [Rh Incompatibility in Pregnancy](#) ^[2] [Rh-positive fetus](#) ^[3]

Rh Incompatibility in Pregnancy

Image by Sarah Walls



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](#) ^[4] [Ortho Diagnostics. Blood group antigens & antibodies as applied to compatibility testing](#) ^[5] [Rh-Hr Blood-Group System](#) ^[6] [Blood Group Incompatibility](#) ^[7] [Fetal Blood](#) ^[8]

Topic

[Processes](#) ^[9]

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Format

[Graphics](#) ^[10]

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Links

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- [3] <https://embryo.asu.edu/keywords/rh-positive-fetus>
- [4] <https://embryo.asu.edu/library-congress-subject-headings/pregnancy>
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