

# Your Blood and Rh Factor:

## Q&A for Women Who Are Rh-Negative

### What is Rh factor?

Rh factor refers to the presence or absence of a certain substance, or antigen, on your red blood cells. Most women have this antigen and are, therefore, Rh-positive. Approximately 10% of women living in the United States do not have this antigen and are Rh-negative.

### What is Rh sensitization?

If your blood type is Rh-negative, sensitization to Rh-positive blood can occur if your blood mixes with Rh-positive blood during a pregnancy; your body will produce antibodies to combat the Rh-positive blood cells. Once your body has been sensitized to Rh-positive blood, it is irreversible and can have serious consequences. For this reason, it is important to speak with your doctor about anything that could cause you to come into contact with Rh-positive blood.

### How can Rh sensitization affect pregnancy in Rh-negative women?

During a first pregnancy with an Rh-positive fetus there is usually little risk of complications from Rh factor because most first-time Rh-negative mothers produce only a small number of antibodies. The real danger occurs during future pregnancies, when these antibodies are already present and can pass through the uterus, often causing damage to an Rh-positive fetus's red blood cells. This situation, called hemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN), can cause serious complications, such as jaundice and even heart failure.

### How do I prevent my body from developing antibodies?

Administration of Rhophylac®, Rh<sub>0</sub>(D) Immune Globulin Intravenous (Human), for intravenous and intramuscular injection, helps prevent your body from producing antibodies that could cause complications. Rhophylac®

works by clearing Rh-positive blood from your bloodstream *before* your body has the chance to develop the antibodies that could harm a fetus. Rhophylac® reduces the risk of serious complications from Rh incompatibility.

### Why is Rhophylac® given following an incomplete pregnancy?

Rhophylac® is recommended if an abortion or miscarriage occurs because the fetus has already started to produce red blood cells, which could cause sensitization.

### Important Safety Information

Rhophylac® is derived from human plasma. As with all plasma-derived products, the risk of transmission of infectious agents, including viruses and, theoretically, the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) agent, cannot be completely eliminated.

Rhophylac® should not be given to Rh-positive patients or patients with hypersensitivity to human globulin. For antenatal and postpartum use, Rhophylac® is intended for maternal administration only; Rhophylac® should not be given to a newborn infant. Patients who receive Rhophylac® for incompatible transfusions should be monitored clinically and biologically for potential hemolytic reactions.

Rhophylac® may cause allergic reactions, including anaphylactic reactions in IgA-deficient individuals. Occasionally, infusion-related adverse reactions, such as headache, fever, inflammation, and chills, may occur. In rare cases, nausea, vomiting, hypotension, tachycardia, and anaphylactic type reactions, including dyspnea and shock, have been reported, even when there has been no hypersensitivity to previous administration.

Please see reverse side of this card for a brief summary of the full product information.  
Talk to your doctor to make sure you are doing all you can to protect yourself.

**Rhophylac®**  
Rh<sub>0</sub>(D) Immune Globulin  
Intravenous (Human)

for intravenous and  
intramuscular injection

## Important Product Information

This product is given by a healthcare professional only, as either an intramuscular (IM) injection or an intravenous (IV) line.

### Description of Rhophylac®

Rhophylac® is a sterile Rh<sub>0</sub>(D) Immune Globulin Intravenous (Human)—or RhIg—solution. Rhophylac® is given to pregnant women who have an Rh-negative blood type. Without treatment, an unborn child who has an Rh-positive blood type may develop serious health problems from exposure to antibodies in the mother's Rh-negative blood during pregnancy or delivery. Rhophylac® helps to prevent this from happening.

### Rhophylac® administration

If you are Rh-negative and have had an incomplete pregnancy, your doctor will likely give you Rhophylac® to help prevent future complications from Rh factor. Your doctor will determine the exact timing and number of doses you need. You and your doctor can discuss which method of administration is best for you—as a shot (intramuscular) or through an IV line (intravenous).

### Reasons you may NOT be given Rhophylac®

You should not be given Rhophylac® if you have had a previous serious allergic reaction to Rhophylac® or other human blood products. You should not be given Rhophylac® if you lack a specific protein called IgA in your blood. Your doctor can give you a blood test to determine if you are IgA deficient.

### Warnings you should know about

Rhophylac® is derived from human plasma. As with all plasma-derived products, the risk of transmission of infectious agents, including viruses and, theoretically, the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) agent, cannot be completely eliminated. This risk is reduced by using tested and approved donations only from donors who

are screened to eliminate those with specific infections, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis.

Also, the manufacturing process for Rhophylac® includes several steps that inactivate (kill) and remove such viruses, if they are present. Despite these steps, products made with human plasma could still possibly transmit disease, and unknown infectious agents may be present in such products. Your doctor will discuss with you the benefits of receiving Rhophylac® versus the risks.

### Safety measures (Precautions)

All medications may cause allergic reactions in some people. If you experience any unusual symptoms, such as hives, itchy welts, tightness of the chest, and/or wheezing, tell your doctor.

### Drug interactions

If you recently received a vaccination of any kind, tell your doctor. Depending on the type of vaccine you received, you may need to repeat the vaccination at a later date if you are given Rhophylac®. Your doctor will help you decide if this is necessary.

### Possible side effects

If you received Rhophylac® as a shot (intramuscular), you may experience pain or tenderness at the injection site. Some women have experienced mild and temporary side effects such as fever, overall discomfort or uneasiness, headache, skin reactions (such as hives or welts), and/or chills. These side effects usually do not last long, but you should tell your doctor if you experience any side effect or unusual symptom. This list of side effects is not complete, so please talk to your doctor about the other side effects that may occur from Rhophylac®.

For more information on Rhophylac®, please talk to your doctor and visit [www.rhophylac.com](http://www.rhophylac.com).

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**Intravenous (Human)**  
 for intravenous and  
 intramuscular injection