

# ANTI-D

## (Immunoglobulines human)

### Informations about pregnancy patients Rh negative or weak D other than type 1, 2 or 3 or Rh type 42

#### WHAT IS HUMAN 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 in Rh-negative or weak D other than type 1, 2 or 3 or Rh type 42.

#### WHY SHOULD I BE GIVEN THIS PRODUCT ?

- During pregnancy or birth, the baby's red blood cells can pass into the mother's blood.
- This can also happen during a miscarriage, abortion, amniocentesis or an other bleeding from the placenta.
- When the blood of a foetus from the RH-positive group enters the blood of an Rh-negative or weak D other than type 1, 2 or 3 or Rh type 42 mother, the mother's defence system (immune system) will view the foetus's red cells as « strangers » and will start producing antibodies.
- These antibodies can penetrate the placenta, destroy the baby's red cells and cause more or less severe anaemia.
- Unfortunately, the antibodies formed in the mother'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 other than type 1, 2 or 3 or Rh type 42 pregnant woman 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 baby's red blood cells in the mother's blood circulation and help to eliminate them. Their effectiveness is about 98%; **the mother, therefore, does not develop her own antibodies.**

#### IS IT DANGEROUS FOR THE BABY ?

Giving the mother human anti-D immunoglobulin will not create any danger for the baby. The product remains in the mother's blood and does not pass into the baby's blood. It is eliminated, moreover, after about 3 months.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISK 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.

## WHEN SHOULD RECEIVE ANTI-D IMMUNOGLOBULIN ?

- During each pregnancy.
  - Around the 28th week of pregnancy.
  - During the 72 hours following the birth of an Rh-positive baby.
- After a miscarriage, abortion, amniocentesis, or on the advice of a physician.

## HOW IS ADMINISTERED ?

Human anti-D Immunoglobulin can be administered intramuscular

## WHAT IF I DO NOT RECEIVE THE PRODUCT ?

You should know that there are serious risks for you and your baby if you decide not to receive the product.

- Danger for the foetus (anemia and jaundice) and for subsequent pregnancies.
- Moreover, if you develop your own anti-D antibodies, the laboratory could have difficulty in finding compatible blood for you if you should be in urgent need of blood.

**At present there is no know effective alternative treatment.**

## 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.

**However**, if you have had a reaction in the past to the administration of blood products, you should notify your doctor **Before** receiving this product.

## HOW DO I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ?

Your doctor will give you the G.A.R.E. Clinic referral form. You should then contact the CISSS de l'Outaouais hospital appointment service at 966-6350, where you will be given two appointments for the same day :

**1st appointment : 7 :15 A.M.** at the outpatient laboratory **for a blood test to detect any antibodies.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> appointment : 11 A.M.** at the G.A.R.E. Clinic on the 3rd floor **to receive your injection.**

**AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, YOU WILL BE KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION FOR 20 MINUTES FOLLOWING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRODUCT.**