

Your Medication



IH-V-196
W.D. 12/01
Pg. 1 of 2

Rho (D) Immune Globulin (Human) (RhoGAM)

Why do I need this medicine?

This medicine is given to keep your body from making antibodies that may hurt the baby growing inside you, or babies you may have later.

Your body may make antibodies because your red blood cells do not have the Rh factor, and your baby's red blood cells have, or may have the Rh factor. The Rh factor is an antigen (something that causes the body to make antibodies). If your body makes antibodies, these can harm the unborn baby's blood cells, which can cause the baby to become anemic. This is why it is important that your body is kept from making antibodies.

How and when is this medicine given to me?

- This medicine is given as a shot (injection) when an Rh negative woman is in the 7th month of pregnancy.
- Another shot (injection) may be given just after the baby is born. You may need more than 1 shot at that time, but this is not likely.
- You will need RhoGAM again each time you are pregnant.
- RhoGAM may also be given if the pregnant Rh negative woman has:
 - An amniocentesis (test to check the baby in the uterus).
 - A miscarriage or abortion.
 - A tubal (ectopic) pregnancy
 - Heavy vaginal bleeding any time while she is pregnant.

(over)

What common side effects may I have?

- You may have some soreness at the place the shot was given.
- You may have a little bit of fever.

If you notice any other side effects, tell your doctor.

Tell your health care provider right away if you have:

- a rash (red, itchy bumps).
- a feeling of tightness in your chest and trouble breathing.
- nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting.

What special things do I need to know?

1. Be sure to tell your health care provider if you have had a bad reaction to any immunizations (vaccinations) before.
2. Tell your health care provider if you are **allergic to any medicine**.
3. Be sure to **keep all your appointments**.
4. For the next 3 months, before you have any vaccinations, tell your health care provider that you have had RhoGAM. RhoGAM may keep the vaccines from working as they should in your body.