

# HDFN- Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn



**HDFN REVIEW AND  
CASE STUDIES**

# Objectives



At the end of this presentation the learner will be able to:

- List and briefly describe the 3 categories of HDFN
- Name the indications for Rh Immunoglobulin
- Recall when and who marketed the first Rh Immunoglobulin
- State why most cases of HDFN due to anti-D are in white females
- List the main causes of fetomaternal bleeds

# Objectives



- State why an ABO incompatibility will decrease the chances of an Rh negative mother of an Rh positive baby making an anti-D
- Describe the two forms of RhIg
- State the two doses of Rhogam
- Explain why you may not be able to perform antigen typing with a positive DAT
- List the Blood Bank tests needed when testing for HDFN

# Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn



**HDFN occurs when the fetal cells are coated with IgG alloantibodies from the mother.**

**These antibodies are directed towards the antigens inherited from the father.**

# There are 3 categories of HDFN:



- **D hemolytic disease**
  - caused by anti-D
- **“Other” hemolytic disease**
  - caused by antibodies to the Rh system (other than D) or other blood group systems
    - Anti-c, -e, -C, -E and -Kell most common
- **ABO HDFN**
  - caused by anti-A,B in group O mothers

# D Hemolytic Disease



- HDFN due to Anti-D is the most common and most severe.
- The D antigen is very antigenic; requires very little to stimulate antibodies
- <0.1mL of fetal blood needed to immunize

# Anti-D



- **The first antibody discovered to cause HDFN was Anti-D.**
- **Before the advent of Rh Immune Globulin 98% of all HDFN cases were due to Anti-D; approx. 1 in 180 of all newborn white infants**

# Anti-D



- Most cases of HDFN due to Anti-D occur in white females because:
  - 12-18% of white women are D-
  - 2-5% of black women are D-
  - 1.7% of Asian women are D-

# Anti-D



- The probability of immunization occurring in an untreated D- mother with a D+ baby is about 16%.
- 9% will occur with the first pregnancy and 7% with the second pregnancy.

# Immunization of mother



- **Immunization occurs due to exposure to the baby's red cells by a fetomaternal hemorrhage:**
  - Delivery is the most common cause
  - Amniocentesis
  - Spontaneous or induced abortion
  - Chorionic villus sampling
  - Cordocentesis
  - Rupture of an ectopic pregnancy
  - Blunt trauma to the abdomen

# Immunization of mother



- **Decrease in immunization to D if baby is ABO incompatible**
- **Chance decreases from 16% to 2%**
- **Anti-A and/or Anti-B destroys cells before immune system can formulate Anti-D**

# Immunization of mother



- Immunization can also occur due to a transfusion of a product containing Rh+cells.
- It is very important to give only **Rh-** products to **Rh-** women of childbearing age.

# Immunization of mother



- If it is necessary to give Rh<sup>+</sup> products (like platelets) a prophylaxis dose of Rh Immunoglobulin should be considered.
- RhIg given now could prevent the development of an Anti-D that could potentially cause HDFN in future pregnancies.

# Rh Immune Globulin



- **1968: Ortho marketed the first Rh Immune Globulin product: RhoGAM.**
- **After 1968 the rate of HDFN due to Anti-D decreased dramatically.**
- **When Rh IG is given at 28 weeks antipartum and postpartum the incidence of Anti-D drops to 0.1%.**

# Severity of HDFN



- Severity of the disease can vary depending on level of destruction of IgG coated cells
- Severity can range from no symptoms at all to intrauterine death.

# Severity of HDFN



- Red cell destruction can lead to many levels of severity:

hyperbilirubinemia

- slight jaundice
- kernicterus (bilirubin neurotoxicity)

Erythroblastosis fetalis

Hydrops fetalis

# Erythroblastosis fetalis



- $\uparrow$  RBC destruction =  $\uparrow$  RBC production =  $\uparrow$ reticulocytes = “erythroblastosis fetalis”
- “Hydrops fetalis” (generalized massive edema) can occur in severe cases.

# Anti-D



- **When Anti-D is the cause of HDFN the severe anemia can cause cardiovascular failure, tissue hypoxia and death in utero.**
- **Intrauterine transfusion can save the baby's life in these cases.**

# Testing Results



+DAT due to:

Anti-D

Anti-A,B

DAT results:

2+

m+

# HDFN Case Study #1



# PUBS



- **Percutaneous**
- **Umbilical**
- **Blood**
- **Sampling**

# Case Study

## Unborn Baby A PUBS sample

Anti-A	0
Anti-B	0
Anti-D	0
D control	0
DAT	4+
ABSCR	Positive

**Baby A types**  
**O negative**

## Unborn Baby B PUBS sample

Anti-A	0
Anti-B	0
Anti-D	0
D control	0
DAT	Neg

**Baby B types**  
**O negative**







# Case Study



- **Why does baby have positive DAT?**
- **Mom has 2 antibodies: Anti-D and –C**
- **Need to antigen type Baby A**
  - **Baby types negative for C and D**

# Case Study



- How can baby type negative for D and C and still have a positive DAT?

**Blocking Phenomenon!**

# Blocking phenomenon



- An over abundance of antibodies is coating the red cells
- The antibodies take up all antigen sites on the cell
- The antisera reagent has no antigen sites to attach to

# Blocking phenomenon



- Will cause false negative reactions
- Anti-D is the most common in HDFN.
- Suspicious when baby has a strong DAT and types antigen negative for the antibody.

# Testing Results



Two ways to treat DAT+ cells for antigen typing:

1) Chloroquin

2) Gentle heat elution

- Best for blocking phenomenon cases

# Case Study



## Unborn Baby A Choloroquin treated cells

Anti-C	0
Anti-D	2+
D control	0
DAT	negative

**Baby A types**  
**D positive and C negative**

# Case Study



- Unborn Baby A now types O positive and negative for C
- Unborn Baby A received an intrauterine transfusion of group O Rh negative, C negative blood

# Case Study



- **Babies born a few days later**
- **Baby B was ok**
- **Baby A had an increase in unconjugated bilirubin and a decrease in hemoglobin**

# Laboratory Results



## NEWBORN BABY A

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
T Bili	5.0	5.4	6.4	8.1	9.5	<b>13.4</b>	<b>13.6</b>
D Bili	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Ind Bili	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Hgb	13.0	13.6	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>

# Case Study

## Newborn Baby A

Anti-A	0
Anti-B	0
Anti-D	0
D control	0
Weak D	1+
Wk D Cont	1+
DAT	4+

**Baby A types  
O, Rh?**

## Newborn Baby B

Anti-A	0
Anti-B	0
Anti-D	0
D control	0
Weak D	0
Wk D Cont	0
DAT	Neg

**Baby B types  
O negative**

# Case Study



## Unborn Baby A Choloroquin treated cells

Anti-C	0
Anti-D	2+
D control	0
DAT	negative

**Baby A types**  
**D positive and C negative**



# Case Study



- **Conclusion:**  
**Baby A has HDFN due to Anti-D**

# Treatment for HDFN



- **Ultraviolet phototherapy**
- **Exchange transfusion**
- **Intrauterine transfusion**

# HDFN Case Study #2



## **ABO INCOMPATIBILITY**

# ABO HDFN



## Mother's sample

Anti-A	0
Anti-B	0
A1 cells	4+
B cells	4+
Anti-D	4+
D control	0
Weak D	0
Wk D control	0

Antibody Scr	negative
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## Newborn Baby's sample

Anti-A	4+
Anti-B	0
Anti-D	4+
D control	0
DAT	MP

Total bili	4.4
Direct bili	0.4
Indirect bili	<b>4.0</b>

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