Did you know that YOUR PLASMA can be valuable for the production of a drug that SAVES the LIVES of thousands of BABIES?

Attention Rh Negative Individuals


Biotest Pharmaceuticals Corporation produces source and specialty plasmas for the development and commercialization of therapeutic products for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and immunological disorders.
As an individual whose blood is Rho (D) negative, your body’s immune system has the ability to produce antibodies to the Rho (D) antigen. These antibodies (Anti-D) are valuable because they are the source of the raw material used to manufacture Rho (D) Immune Globulin. This drug is used to immunize Rho (D) negative women during pregnancy and after childbirth to prevent their bodies from producing these antibodies. Although the antibodies are not dangerous to your body or the bodies of these pregnant women, they are life-threatening to their unborn children whose blood is Rho (D) positive. The antibodies can attack the baby’s red blood cells and cause anemia, heart failure, brain damage, and in some cases, death.

The antibodies needed for production of the drug are in scarce supply because the raw material source is human plasma from individuals possessing Anti-D. Prior to 1968 when Rho (D) Immune Globulin became available, women were sensitized through pregnancy by being exposed to the Rho (D) positive red blood cells of their unborn babies. During the early years of Rho (D) Immune Globulin production, these women were happy to be Anti-D plasma donors since they were anxious to prevent other mothers from experiencing the tragedy and devastation they experienced in their pregnancies.

The good news is that Rho (D) Immune Globulin prevents Rh negative women from being sensitized during pregnancy. The bad news is that the raw material has now become so scarce, the worldwide supply of the drug is now at dangerously low levels. If the Anti-D plasma supply continues to decline, the time may come when the required shots may not be available.

To prevent this, another way has been developed to immunize Rho (D) negative individuals and induce their bodies to produce the needed antibodies. The immunization process consists of injecting Rho (D) negative individuals, such as yourself, with small amounts of Rho (D) positive red blood cells. Over time, repeated injections with these red blood cells will induce your body to produce the antibodies. When the antibodies reach an acceptable level, your plasma can be collected for the production of Rho (D) Immune Globulin.

**Rho (D) Immune Globulin Donor Information**

**What are the requirements to be a donor in this program?**

1. Rh negative blood type (male or female).
2. Women must be post-menopausal or surgically sterile.
3. Have a commitment to the program and plan to stay in the area as this is not a short term or temporary process.
4. Be able to meet the requirements to be a Source Plasma donor.
5. Cannot donate whole blood or plasma at another facility while on the program.

**Steps necessary to begin the program are:**

1. Women must obtain documentation from a physician or have medical records stating that they are surgically sterile or post-menopausal and unable to bear children.
2. Have a physical (at no cost) by our physician and be medically approved to enter the program.
3. Accept a series of injections of red blood cells administered under the supervision of our physician.
4. Participants in the program must have their blood tested periodically to detect if the antibody has been produced.
5. Be willing and able to enter an on-going plasma donation program once the immune system begins to produce antibodies at an acceptable level.

**The red blood cells that are used for the injections are:**

1. Tested for all infectious disease markers as required by the FDA.
2. Qualified by a two-year process of periodic infectious disease testing of the donor.
3. Frozen for a minimum of one year and tested for infectious disease markers a minimum of one year after donation.

This testing is designed to detect any positive test results which may not have been detectable at the time of their donation because the donor’s exposure to the disease was too recent.

**Frequently asked questions:**

1. **Is it safe?** Yes,
   a. All equipment used is sterile and disposed of after each use.
   b. Many Rho (D) Immune Globulin donors have been in the donor program for as long as 15 years or more.

2. **Will I need more injections after the antibody is made?**
   Yes, whenever your antibody level drops.

3. **Is the antibody harmful to my body?**
   No, only if you were given an incompatible blood transfusion. This occurrence is highly unlikely since all donor blood is typed for presence of Rho (D) antigen and all patients are screened for the presence of the antibody.

Although we know that you are anxious to help the mothers and babies who need Rho (D) Immune Globulin, this program is a major time commitment and your time is valuable. We will be asking you to donate two times per week or at least six times per month. In order to compensate you for your time, effort and transportation costs, every donor accepted into our program will receive monetary compensation for each donation.