

Rhogam in First Trimester Abortions: Necessity or Convention?

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Background: In the United States, Rhogam is routinely given to Rh negative women following first-trimester therapeutic and spontaneous abortions. This practice guideline was based upon five major studies conducted in the early 1970's when pregnancy dating was less accurate. In addition, much of the research was conducted on gestations greater than 9 weeks. **Objective:** To determine whether Rh prophylaxis is necessary in Rh negative women undergoing abortion at 9 weeks or less. **Method:** Trophoblastic material was collected from abortions performed on a total of 8 Rh negative women. Reverse transcriptase PCR was performed on three genotypically Rh positive samples. **Result:** In each of the three cases, rtPCR weakly amplified a band that was of the same molecular weight as RhoD mRNA. **Conclusion:** Fetal blood, even very early in pregnancy, is likely to contain the RhoD gene product.