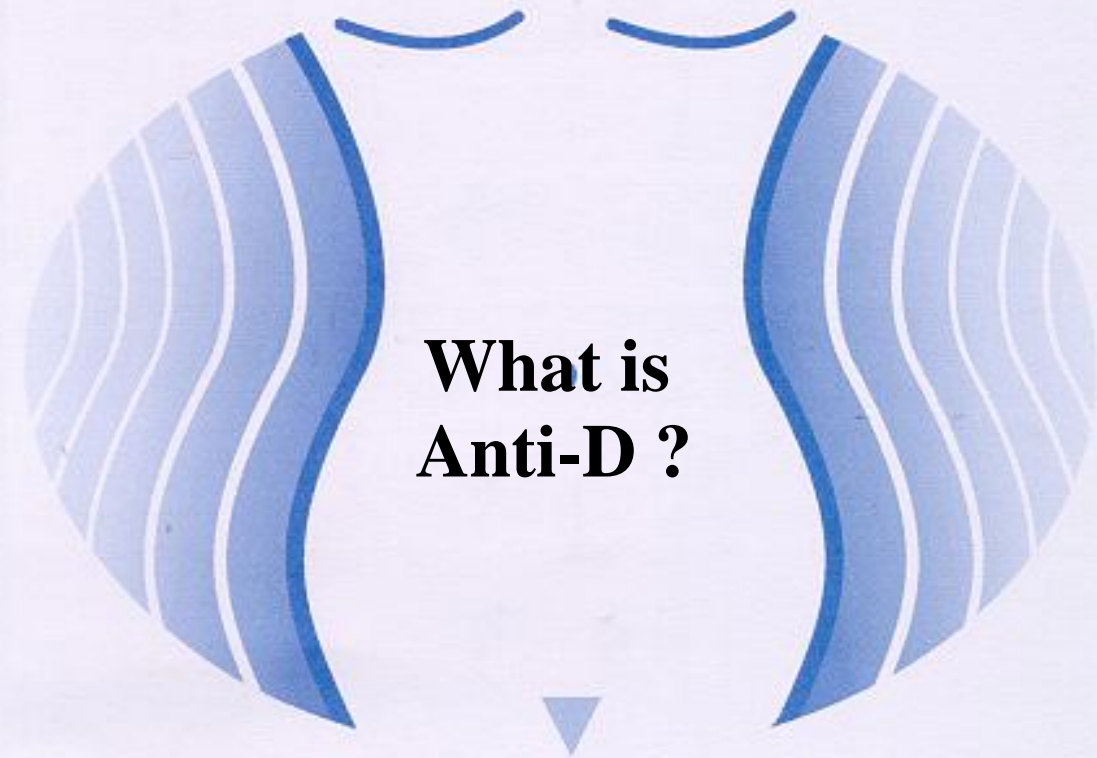


Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound in Mulgrave (formerly Diagnostic Women's Ultrasound), has provided specialist pregnancy and gynaecological ultrasound services to Melbourne's South East and the Dandenong region since 1989.

Dr Simon Meagher is an obstetrician/gynaecologist who has specialised in ultrasound and prenatal diagnosis. He is the Director of Monash Ultrasound for Women, consultant staff specialist at the Mercy Hospital for Women and lecturer at both Melbourne and Monash Universities. He is well known for his clinical and procedural skills and academic achievements, having over 40 publications in local and international journals.

O & G Ultrasound provides a complete range of pregnancy and gynaecological ultrasounds and related procedures including prenatal genetic testing for Down Syndrome. Dr Meagher (obstetrician/gynaecologist/ultrasonologist), Associates and sonographers specialised in obstetric ultrasound, work with state of the art, high resolution ultrasound machines. Together with an experienced team of nurses and support staff, our aim is to provide you with the highest quality ultrasound service available.



What is Anti-D ?

Dr Simon Meagher

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Rhesus disease is a condition which may affect the unborn baby. It gives rise to anaemia (low blood count) in the baby, usually late in pregnancy. It is a condition which occurs in partners with incompatible blood groups.

Approximately 85% of the Australian population have a Rhesus (Rh-D) **positive** blood group and 15% a (Rh-D) **negative** group.

When a Rh-D negative patient becomes pregnant by a Rh-D positive partner there is a 1 in 4 chance that the baby will be Rh-D positive. If the baby's Rh-D positive blood cells pass into the mother's bloodstream (as may occur at amniocentesis or chronic villus sampling (CVS)), then the mother may produce antibodies against these cells. These antibodies may then cross the placenta, bind to and destroy the baby's own blood cells thus causing anaemia.

If the mother is given an injection of Anti-D within 72 hours of the procedure (amniocentesis or CVS) then the baby's cells which have entered the bloodstream may be neutralised and thus harmful antibodies will not be produced. The baby will therefore be protected from developing anaemia.

It is routine practice therefore to offer all Rh-D negative mothers Anti-D after amniocentesis and CVS.

It is important that we know your blood group at the time of your amniocentesis or CVS. If you do not know your blood group, please ask your doctor for this information prior to your appointment.

Because Anti-D is a blood product (extracted from blood donated by others), it carries a small risk of transmitting viral and other infections. In Australia however, the screening of such blood products is stringent and such transmissions are extremely rare.

You will be asked to read and sign a consent form prior to administration of this blood product. If you do not wish to receive this injection please let the staff and doctor know.

Anti-D is given by injection usually into the buttock or arm after the amniocentesis or CVS. The needle used is a very fine and causes minimal discomfort.

If you have any further questions about this please speak to your specialist or the ultrasound doctor on the day of the procedure.

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