

Fetal Intravascular Transfusion (IVT)

A blood transfusion is given to the baby inside the uterus to treat the effects of anemia caused by Rh sensitization. During the transfusion, Rh-negative blood is given to the baby. The fresh blood provided by the transfusion replaces the red blood cells that have been destroyed by the mother's immune system.

Using ultrasound for guidance, a fine needle is passed into the umbilical vein, or into the baby's liver (intrahepatic vein). A muscle relaxant may be given to quiet the baby's activity and reduce the chance of the needle being moved. Donor red blood cells are given to the baby to restore the haemoglobin to normal. Transfusions are repeated throughout the pregnancy until the baby is born.

The procedure related risks are the same risks as those for Fetal Blood Sampling, but because the procedure takes longer and is more complicated - the risks are increased.