

More than Meets the Eye Hemolytic Disease of The Newborn with DAT Negative Anemia

March 7, 2007

**Cassandra D. Josephson, MD
Assistant Director, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Blood Banks and Transfusion Services
Assistant Professor, Pathology and Laboratory
Medicine and Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine**

Case Presentation

- 17 day old male born to a G₂P₁ female who presents to the Children's Hospital with pallor, respiratory distress, and jaundice.
- PMHx: Born at 37 weeks NSVD
- Transfusion History: 3 intrauterine red cell transfusions

Laboratory and Blood Bank Studies

- Hemoglobin: 5.4 gm/dl
 - Total bilirubin: 15 mg/dl
 - Indirect bilirubin: 14.6 mg/dl
 - Reticulocyte count: < 0.5%
-
- Patient typing as 0 negative
 - Patient's antibody screen positive
 - Anti-C identified in patient

Questions to Consider

- What historical information would we want from mother of child?
- What is the differential diagnosis for DAT negative anemia in a 2 week old?
- What role does the blood bank have in this case and how can they help?

Questions to Consider

- What type of red cells should the patient receive for transfusion now?
- Should the transfusion be a simple one or an exchange transfusion?
- When are intrauterine red cell transfusions indicated and what type of red cell products should be transfused?

What is Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus/Newborn?

- Fetal RBCs become coated with maternal IgG (alloantibodies) directed against paternal antigens

NATURAL HISTORY

- RBCs ↑ production in liver
- ↑ nucleated RBC in circulation
- ↓ albumin synthesis
- Anemia – Cardiovascular failure---Tissue Hypoxia---
(+) ↓ oncotic pressure –edema, ascites, effusions =

HYDROPS

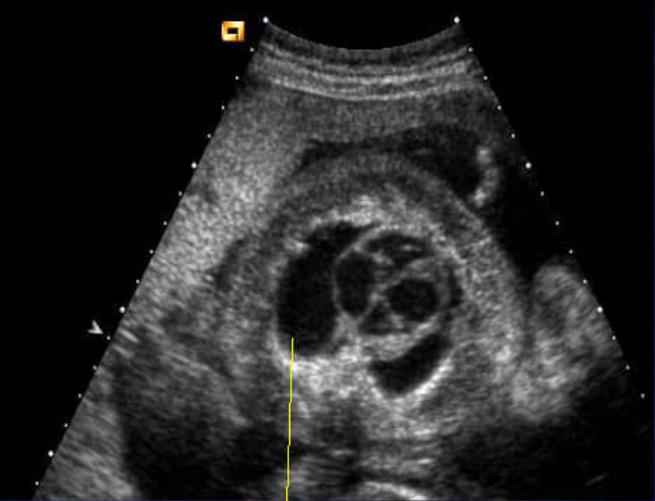
Fetal hydrops

Ascites



Scalp Edema

Hospital Ultrasound



Pleural Effusion



Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn

- Usually positive DAT
- Post-natal hyperbilirubinemia
- In utero hemolysis
- In utero death (hydrops fetalis)

Comparison of Rh and ABO HDN

Clinical	Rh	ABO
First born	5%	40 – 50%
Predictable severity subsequent preg	Yes	No
Stillbirth/hydrops	Frequent	Rare
Jaundice	+++ to ++++	+
HSM	+++	+
Response to bililights	Limited	Excellent
Infant DAT	+	+ or 0
Maternal antibody ID	Usually	Not clear
Spherocytes	0	+
Late Anemia	Common	Rare

Algorithm for the management of RhD sensitized pregnancy

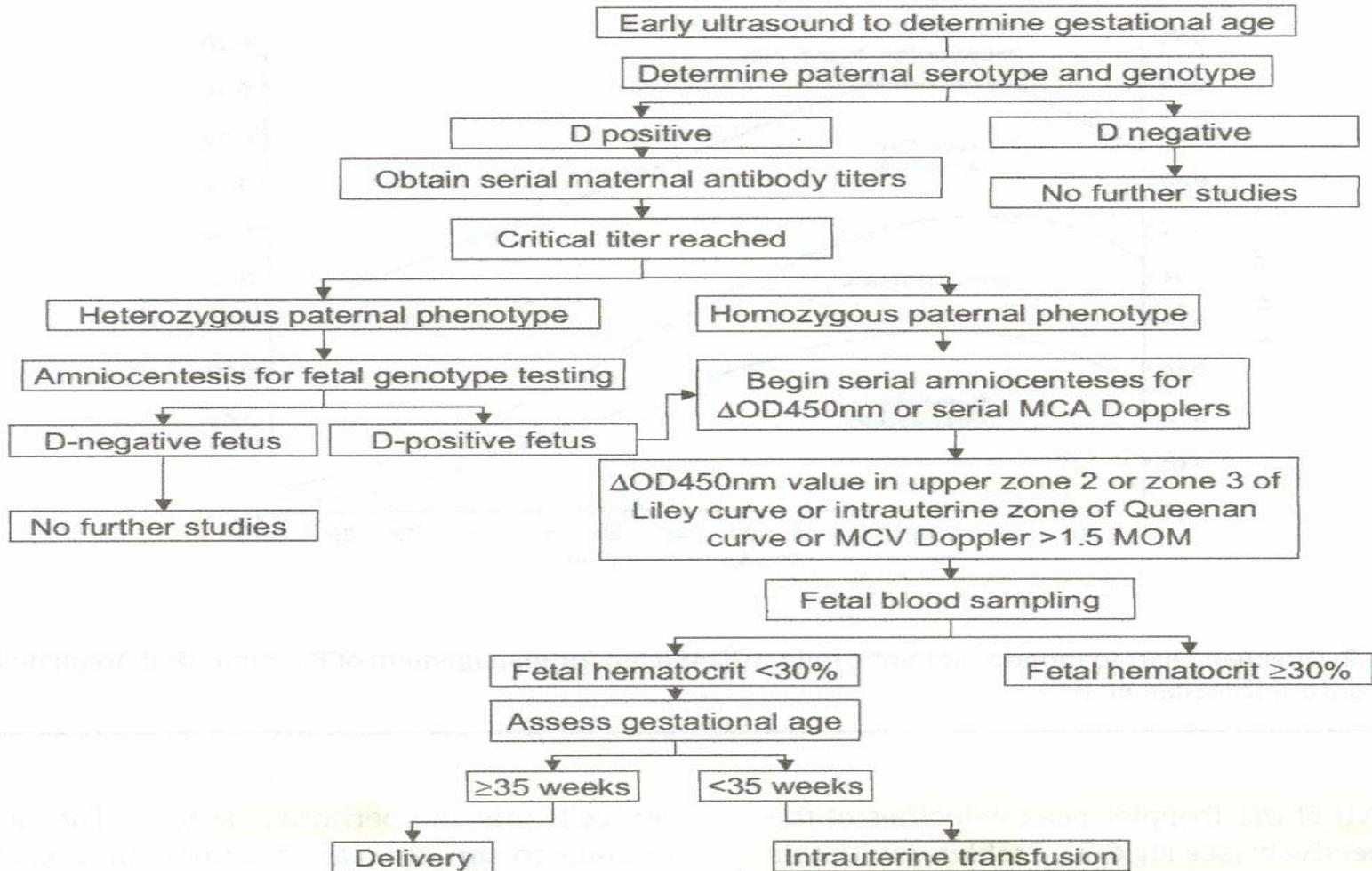
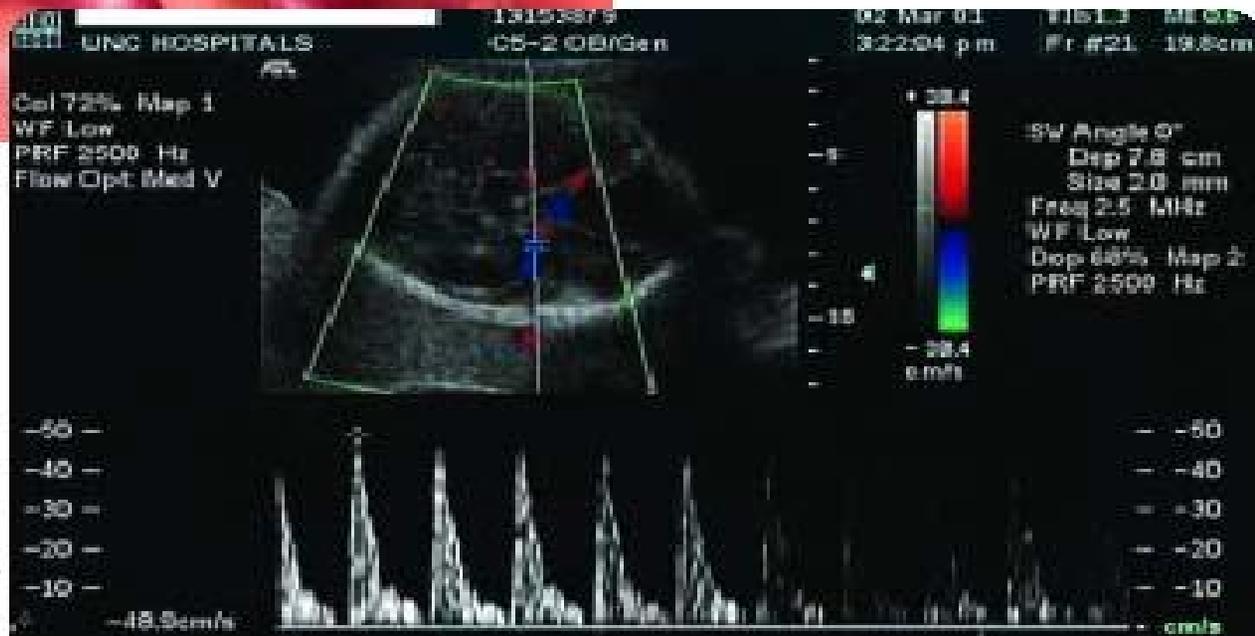


Figure 6-1. A suggested algorithm for the management of RhD sensitized pregnancy. (Used with permission from Moise.¹¹) Intrauterine, Neonatal, and Pediatric Transfusion: Wong, Luban In: Transfusion Therapy: Clinical Principles and Practice

FIGURE 1. Middle cerebral artery peak systolic Doppler velocity.

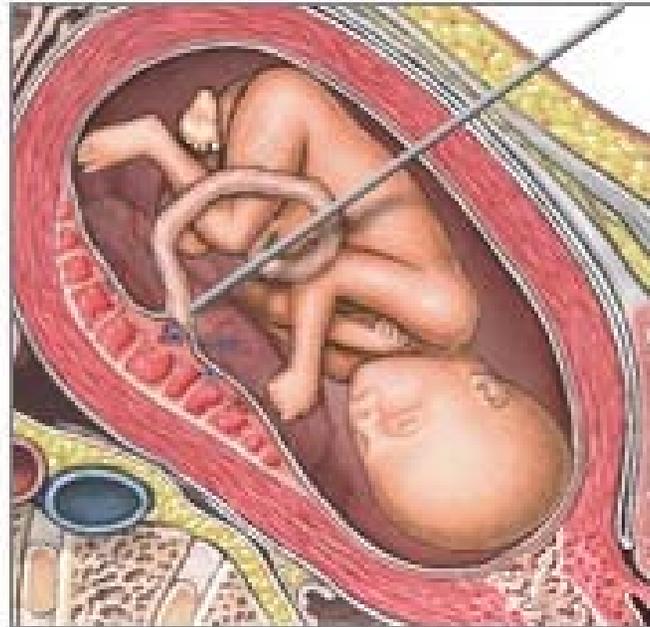


Middle Cerebral Artery (MCA) Doppler

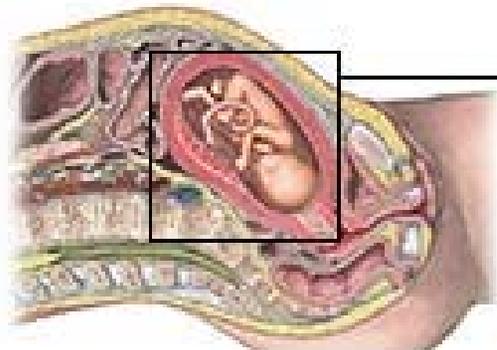
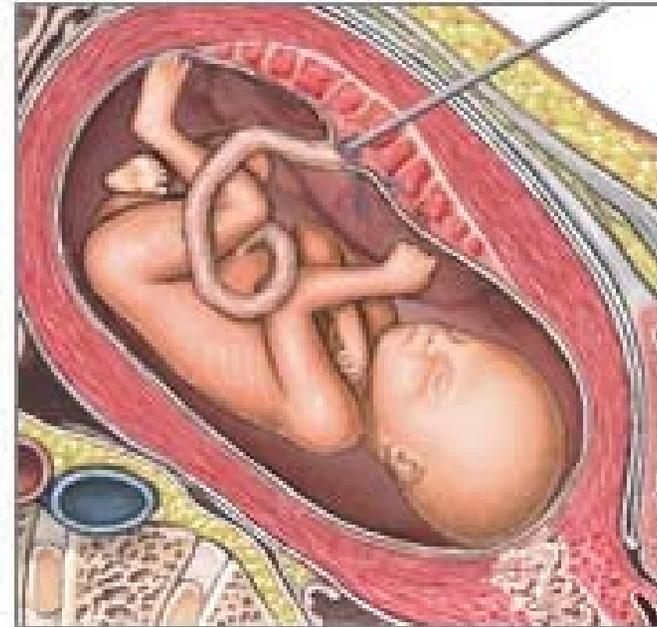
- > 1.50 multiples of the mean (MoM) MCA peak velocity for the detection of moderate/severe anemia
- Sensitivity 100%
- False positive 12%
- Positive predictive value rate 65%
- Perform prior to 35 weeks
- Measure must be > 1.5 MoM before fetal blood sampling is performed
- Percutaneous umbilical blood sampling (PUBS) has a 1-2% risk of fetal loss

Percutaneous umbilical blood sampling (PUBS)

Posterior Placenta



Anterior Placenta



Area of enlargement

Queenan and MCA Charts

Invasive
Amniotic fluid monitoring

Non-invasive
MCA velocity monitoring

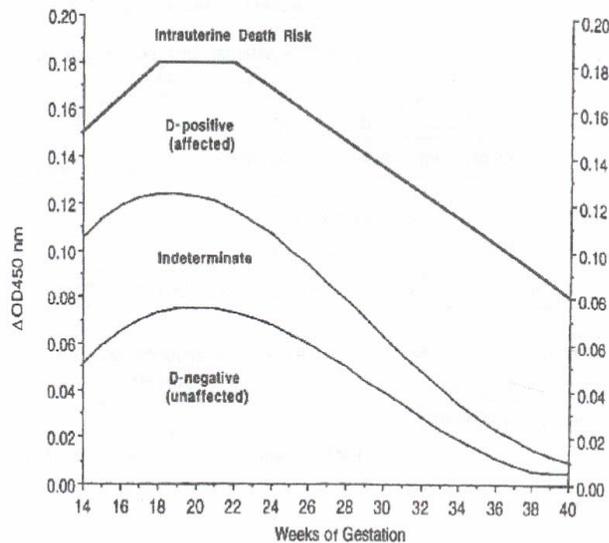


Figure 6-2. Queenan chart to monitor amniotic fluid $\Delta OD_{450} \text{ nm}$ for management of D-immunized pregnancies. (Modified from Queenan et al.¹⁵)

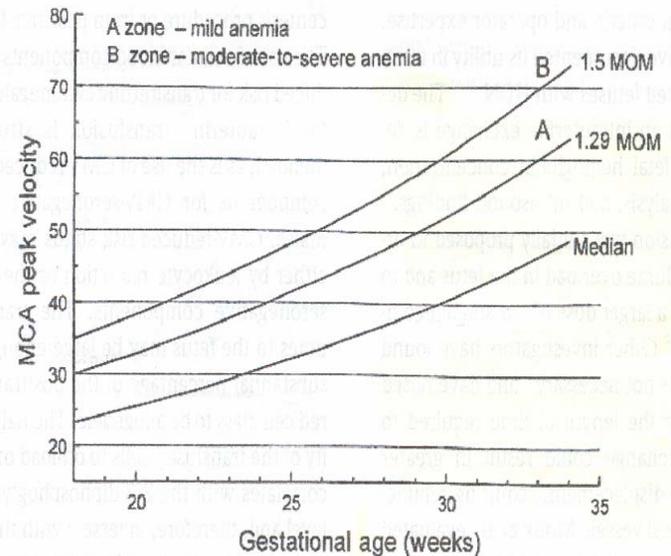


Figure 6-3. Comparison of middle cerebral artery peak velocity and gestational age in relation to fetal anemia. (Used with permission from Moise.¹¹) MCA = middle cerebral artery; MOM = multiples of the median.

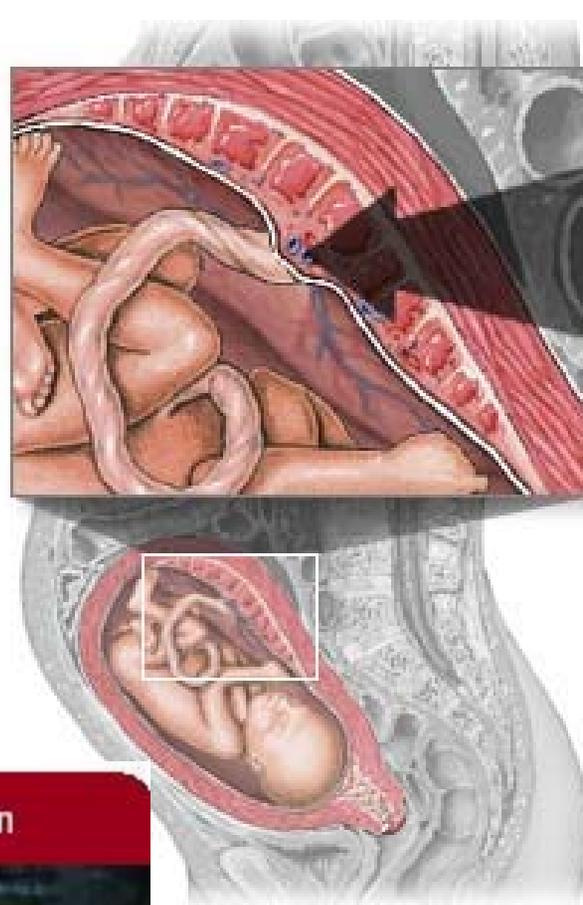
Red Cell Alloimmunization Antibodies Necessitating Intrauterine Transfusion

- Anti-D

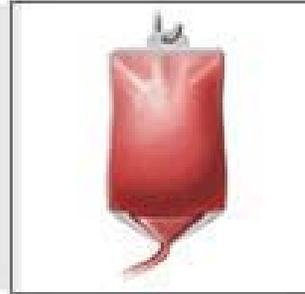
- Anti-Kell (K1)

- Anti- c, C

Intrauterine Transfusion



Intrauterine transfusion



A fetus may receive a blood transfusion through the umbilical vein in the placenta

FIGURE 5. Setup for intravascular intrauterine transfusion



Thresholds and Transfusion Rates in Intrauterine Transfusions

- Hemoglobin < 10 g/dL or two standard deviations below the mean for gestational age
- Transfusion volumes between 20 – 50% of fetoplacental blood volume
- Non-hydrops fetus infusion rates 5 – 7 mL/minute
- Hydropic fetus 1 – 2 ml/minute (can be 3 transfusion of red cells 1 -2 weeks apart)

Intrauterine Transfusion

RBC Selection and Processing

- Compatability with maternal sample
- “CMV safe” - leukoreduced or CMV negative
- Fresh as possible RBCs
- Reconstituted with FFP to prevent dilutional coagulopathy (Hct 50 – 80%)
- Washing: fluid status patient, if mother’s blood used for transfusion, if AS units used
- Blood negative for Hemoglobin S
- Irradiated

Intrauterine Transfusion Perinatal Survival

- Overall perinatal survival: 84%
- Survival with fetal hydrops: 74%
- Survival without hydrops: 94%

Intrauterine Transfusion Neonatal Follow-up

- 36 infants
- 50% required top-up transfusions
- Mean: 38 days (20-68 days)
- Most required 1 top-up transfusion
- Follow-up with weekly hcts and retics
- Adverse neurologic outcomes in 9.1% w/hydrops vs 6.4% w/o hydrops

Questions to Consider

- What historical information would we want from mother of child? Did she receive Rh IgG and when? Does she have a known antibody?
- What is the differential diagnosis for DAT negative anemia in a 2 week old? Usually implies non-immune mediated process so: G-6 PD, Pyruvate kinase deficiency, Diamond-Blackfan anemia, leukemia, blood loss, or potentially immune mediated with total destruction of targeted red cells explaining DAT negative result

Questions to Consider

- What role does the blood bank have in this case and how can they help?
- What type of red cells should the patient receive for transfusion now?
- Should the transfusion be a simple one or an exchange transfusion?
- When are intrauterine red cell transfusions indicated and what type of red cell products should be transfused?

Follow-up: Case presentation patient

- He was placed on rEPO due to hypoproliferative suppression of bone marrow.
- He is still requiring transfusion every 4 - 5 weeks and now approximately 80 days later his IAT is negative, retic count is close to normal and he is growing well.