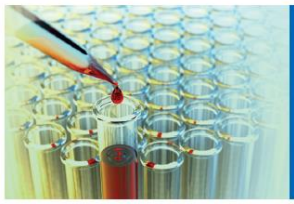

3

Haemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn

Chapter summary

- Prevention of HDFN is now due to mass-scale screening of all pregnancies to identify those at risk (i.e. RhD-negative mothers, antibody screen).
- The most common antibodies causing HDFN are anti-D, -K, -c, -E, and -Fy^a.
- A large number of other blood group antigens can cause HDFN but are uncommon.
- FcRN is a protein that mediates the transport of IgG; IgM is not transported.
- Tests that can monitor the severity of antibodies formed are available but are not used in all countries.
- Monitoring of at-risk pregnancies is now largely non-invasive and is done by ultrasonography (e.g. middle cerebral artery Doppler) or by fetal genotyping, utilizing free fetal DNA in maternal plasma.