Immune System and Host Defense Mechanisms in Pregnancy

Content Outline

1. Maternal Physiologic Adaptations of the Immune System in Pregnancy
   1.1 Alterations in innate immunity
   1.2 Alterations in adaptive immunity
   1.3 Alterations in host defense mechanisms
   1.4 Role of cytokines: interleukins and interferon's

2. Immune Function at the Fetal-Maternal Interface
   2.1 Trophoblast and major histocompatibility antigens
   2.2 Natural killer cells
   2.3 Decidual macrophages

3. Transcapental Passage of Maternal Antibodies

4. Protection of the Fetus from Infection

5. Clinical Implications for the Pregnant Woman and the Fetus
   5.1 Spontaneous abortion
   5.2 Maternal infection
   5.3 Preterm labor
   5.4 Chorioamnionitis and cerebral palsy
   5.5 Immunizations (live and inactive)
   5.6 Malignancies
   5.7 Preeclampsia
   5.8 Autoimmune disease

6. Rho(D) Isoimmunization and ABO Incompatibility

7. Development of Host Defense Mechanisms in the Fetus

Reading Material Resources

Module WB1546: Immune System and Host Defense Mechanisms in Pregnancy is based on the resources listed below. A copy of each article is included with the module.

Chapter 13, Immune System and Host Defense Mechanisms