

incidence of transplacental hemorrhage and subsequent isoimmunization (Diehl-Jones and Fraser, 2014).

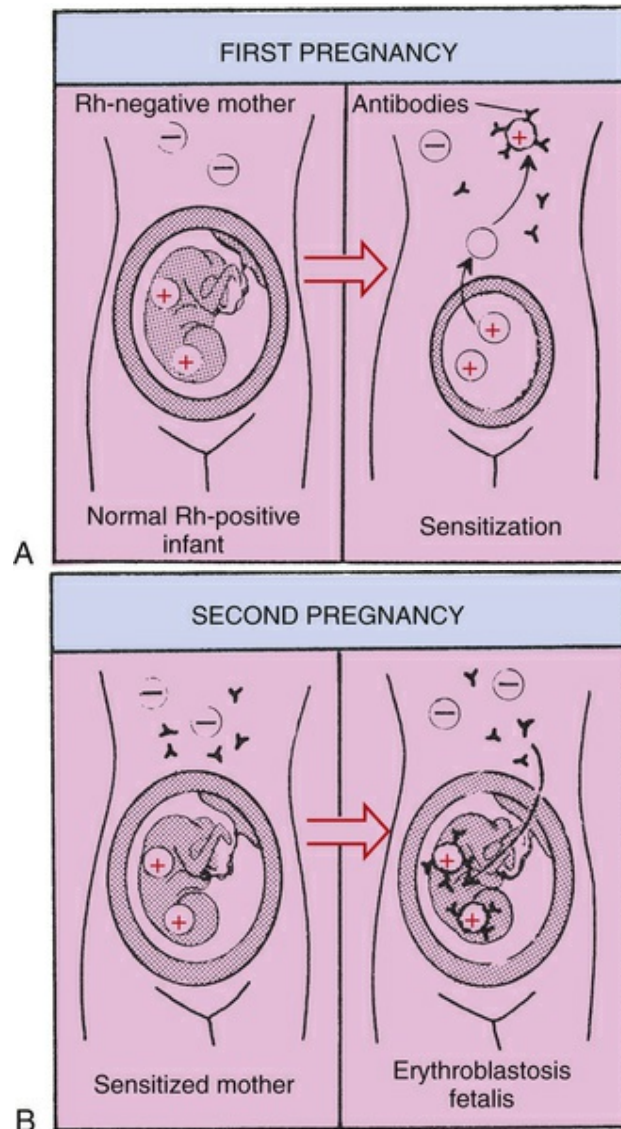


FIG 8-18 Development of maternal sensitization to Rh antigens. **A**, Fetal Rh-positive erythrocytes enter the maternal system. Maternal anti-Rh antibodies are formed. **B**, Anti-Rh antibodies cross the placenta and attack fetal erythrocytes.

Because the condition begins in utero, the fetus attempts to compensate for the progressive hemolysis and anemia by accelerating the rate of erythropoiesis. As a result, immature RBCs (**erythroblasts**) appear in the fetal circulation, hence the term