Unit II – Problem 1 – Immunology: Materno-Fetal Immunity Including Vaccination



- In pregnancy, there are what is known as tolerance mechanisms (materno-fetal tolerance) because we don't want the mother's body to recognize the fetus as a foreign body and direct her immune responses against him. Therefore, regulatory T-cells suppress maternal allo-responses targeted against the fetus.
- Helper T-cells:
 - Notice that IL-10 produced by helper T-cells has an anti-abortive effect.
 - There are two types of helper T-cells:
 - \checkmark <u>TH-1:</u> mediating rejection phenomenon by TNF and IFN.
 - \checkmark <u>TH-2:</u> for immunological tolerance.
- There is a local immunosuppression at the placenta and adjacent tissues:
 - Through estrogen and progesterone which are secreted by the placenta.
 - Reduced macrophage function.
 - Cells and toxic cells inhibition: HLA-G differs from HLA-1 in:
 - ✓ Limited polymorphism.
 - ✓ A tissue-restricted distribution.

- Types of vaccines:

- Killed organisms: examples include
 - ✓ Polio (salk: injection).
 - ✓ Rabies.
 - ✓ Influenza.
 - ✓ Pertussis.
 - ✓ Typhoid.
 - ✓ Cholera.
 - ✓ Plague.
- Living organisms: examples include
 - ✓ MMR: Mumps, Measles, Rubella.
 - ✓ Polio (sabin: oral).
 - ✓ Yellow fever.
 - ✓ Tuberculosis.
- **Toxoids**: examples include
 - ✓ Tetanus.
 - ✓ Diphteria.
- DNA vaccine:
 - ✓ B-cell response.
 - ✓ Gene of pathogen.
- <u>Safe and unsafe vaccines during pregnancy:</u>

Safe (killed or inactivated organisms)	 Influenza (all pregnant women in flu season). Hepatitis B (pre and post exposure). Hepatitis A (pre and post exposure). Pneumococcus (only high-risk women). Meningococcus (in unusual outbreaks). Typhoid (not routinely recommended).
Unsafe (live attenuated organisms)	 MMR: Mumps, Measles, Rubella. Polio. Yellow fever. Varicella.