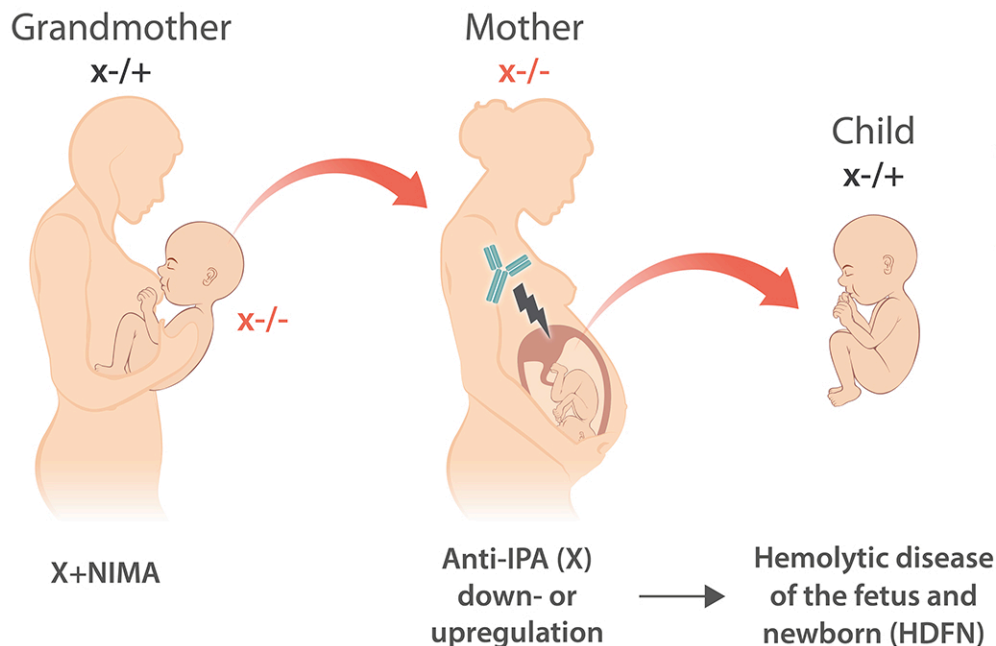


Breastfeeding may affect immunity against non-inherited maternal red blood cell antigens



- In utero, all humans are exposed to non-inherited maternal antigens (NIMAs)
- Pregnant women encounter inherited paternal antigens (IPAs)
- Maternal antibodies against IPAs expressed on red blood cells, such as Rh and K antigens, can cause severe HDFN

LOTUS (LOng Term follow-Up after intrauterine transfusionS) study

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Grandmother-mother-child combinations



Questionnaire to grandmothers on duration of breastfeeding



Antibody responses

- Breastfeeding for at least 2 months compared to a shorter period (aOR 2.39; 95% CI 1.12-5.13)
- NIMA exposure (OR 3.34; 95% CI 1.55-7.24)



Increased risk for antibodies

Oral neonatal exposure to non-inherited maternal red blood cell antigens through breastfeeding for at least 2 months diminish the risk of alloimmunization against these antigens when encountered later in life