Several advances in the investigation and treatment of HDN have greatly reduced the risk of death from this condition.

Replacing baby’s blood shortly after birth greatly reduced the risk of death from HDN and brain damage from kernicterus.

Testing the amniotic fluid can measure the amount of red cell destruction so that appropriate action can be taken.

Transfusing the fetus in the womb reduces the impact of anaemia during pregnancy. This can be done from 20 weeks gestation onwards.

The introduction of anti-D prophylaxis greatly reduced maternal sensitisation and HDN in subsequent pregnancies.

Current deaths per year in the UK: 15-25

Produced as part of National Pathology Week, Nov 2010