

PLACENTA — THE BARRIER WHICH PROTECTS THE FOETUS?

S u m m a r y

During the prenatal life foetus is completely dependent on its mother's organism. The placenta forms a connection between mother's and foetus circulatory systems. It divides mother's and foetus blood by thin layer of tissues called placental barrier.

Oxygen and nutrients penetrate the foetus through this barrier and metabolic products are removed to the mother's organism. The placenta also protects the foetus and has endocrine functions. But can placenta protect the unborn child from everything?