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Role of HLA in Human Pregnancy

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ABSTRACT Human leukocyte antigen (HLA) genes are the human versions of the MHC genes that are most genetically variable coding loci in mammals, found in most vertebrates. In addition to its role in the regulation of cell-cell interactions in the immune response, it also influences reproductive success. HLA-G gene is of particular interest in reproductive biology because of its specific expression on fetal cytotrophoblast cells and is also reported in protection of the human embryo. In this review we discuss about the role of HLA in reproduction, mainly highlighting the importance of HLA-G and E in recurrent abortion.