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FIBRIN-STABILIZING FACTOR IN PREGNANCY Fibrin-stabilizing factor (Factor XIII) is an enzyme precursor of plasma. In the presence of thrombin and calcium ions, Factor XIII is converted to a transamidase which promotes formation of cross-linkages between fibrin chains. The resultant effect is the conversion of Fibrin I, which is easily disruptable, to Fibrin II, which is mechanically stronger and biochemically more resistant. During pregnancy Factor XIII concentrations diminish steadily and are approximately 50 per cent of normal at term. (Cooiland, A., and others: *Reduction in Plasma Factor XIII (Fibrin-stabilizing Factor) Concentration during Pregnancy*, *J. Lab. Clin. Med.* 73: 144 (Jan.) 1969.)