

Barrier Function 11

- 1. The placenta is an imperfect barrier (allows many substances to cross)
- 2. Cytochrome P-450 isoenzymes are located in the placenta, and some may be inducible
 - (a) These enzymes may metabolize agents and decrease fetal exposure
- 3. Placenta may also bind substances to minimize fetal exposure to and accumulation of substances