

Pregnancy of Unknown Location

Important information for patients

Contact numbers

Should you require any additional information or help,
please contact:

Female Surgical Ward: 01270 612048 / 612451 (24 hours)

This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages.
To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.



We appreciate that this is a very anxious time for you. This leaflet will help you to understand why we need to do further investigations following your appointment in the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU).

Following your appointment today, it has not been possible to confirm whether your pregnancy is going to continue or not. We are aware that it can be difficult to take in all the facts when you are worried and upset, especially in a hospital environment.

There are three main reasons for you not being told exactly what is happening.

1. It is simply too early to see the pregnancy (below six weeks)
2. The pregnancy is not growing as it should, and that is possibly why you have started to bleed (early miscarriage)
3. There is a possibility of an ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy outside the womb)

Blood tests

To help us find out what is happening we need to check the pregnancy hormone level in your blood. The pregnancy hormone that is measured is called hCG (human Chorionic Gonadotrophin). This level usually increases by at least 63% over 48 hours in a normally growing early pregnancy. If your hormone level shows a slow rise or fall we would monitor you closely with repeated blood tests +/- an ultrasound until we could make a diagnosis.

If your hormone levels decrease by 50% in 48 hours sadly your pregnancy is unlikely to continue. If this happens you would need to repeat a pregnancy test in two weeks and if it is negative then we do not need to follow you up. However, if it remains positive it is important that you contact us in the EPAU for further assessment.

Signs and symptoms

Please contact the EPAU on 01270 273723 (voicemail) available Monday to Friday 8.00am – 4.00pm or the Gynaecology Ward on 01270 612048 / 612451 (24 hours) if you have any of the following symptoms whilst waiting for your repeat hormone levels to be taken:

1. Bleeding-heavy bleeding that you cannot manage at home
2. Pain in your abdomen (tummy) - any pain that increases and does not settle with simple analgesia such as paracetamol
3. Pain in your rectum
4. Pain in your shoulders
5. Feeling faint and dizzy.

Useful contacts

Miscarriage Association

For support and information for those affected by miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or molar pregnancy.

Tel helpline: 01924 200 799 Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm
www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

The Ectopic Pregnancy Trust

The charity for early pregnancy complications. Providing information, education and support to those affected.

Tel helpline: 020 773 2653 Monday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm
www.ectopic.org.uk

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