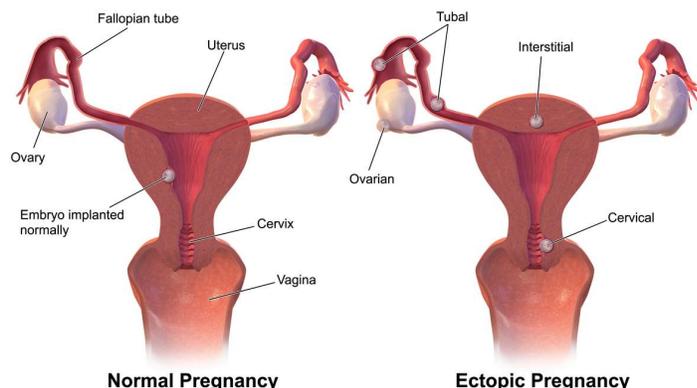


ECTOPIC PREGNANCY PATIENT INFORMATION



Go directly to your nearest emergency department if you experience any of the following:

- Pain in the abdomen, pelvis, or shoulder tips
- Vaginal bleeding
- Dizziness or fainting
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea, vomiting, or other gastrointestinal symptoms

What is an Ectopic Pregnancy?

In a normal pregnancy, the egg is fertilized by a sperm and implants in the lining of the uterus, also known as the “Endometrium”. In an ectopic pregnancy, the fertilized egg implants outside of the uterus, usually in a Fallopian Tube.

How are Ectopic Pregnancies diagnosed?

Ectopic pregnancies are typically diagnosed by transvaginal ultrasound. If the pregnancy is too early and small, it may not be seen in the uterus or elsewhere. This is also known as a “Pregnancy of Unknown Location” (PUL). In these cases, the pregnancy may either be in the uterus, or an ectopic. Patients with PUL require close monitoring, serial b-hCG testing, and repeat ultrasounds until the pregnancy is located.

What is the problem with an Ectopic Pregnancy?

A pregnancy outside the uterus is unable to survive to term. A growing pregnancy inside the fallopian tube can rupture and put the mother at risk of life-threatening bleeding, requiring hospitalization and possibly blood transfusions.

How are ectopic pregnancies managed?

Either medication or surgery may be used depending on the size of the pregnancy. However, if you are very unwell or if there are signs that the pregnancy or Fallopian Tube has ruptured, surgery would be the first recommended option.

Record your β -hCG values

Date/Time	β -hCG Level

Reference: National Collaborating Centre for Women’s and Children’s Health. Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage: Diagnosis and initial management in early pregnancy of ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage. NICE Clinical Guideline. 2012.

Image source: Ectopic pregnancy, by Bruce Blaus. WikiCommons, 2015. Available: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ectopic_pregnancy#/media/File:Ectopic_Pregnancy.png