



Pregnancy of Unknown Location

You have had an ultrasound scan to assess your pregnancy. Following your scan today we have been unable to see any sign of a pregnancy in your uterus (womb) or outside (ectopic) even though you have a positive pregnancy test. This is called a 'Pregnancy of Unknown Location'. We understand that you will be concerned about this and we hope this leaflet will explain the situation and provide some reassurance for you and your partner.

A pregnancy of unknown location will result in one of three outcomes:

- **Early pregnancy in the womb**

We would usually expect to see an embryo and its heartbeat at 6 weeks. However sometimes, the gestation of the pregnancy is earlier than thought. This can occur if you have irregular or long menstrual cycle, or if ovulation is delayed in a particular month. Sometimes the pregnancy is so early that we are not able to see it at all on an ultrasound scan.

- **Miscarriage**

If you have experienced bleeding then it can mean that the pregnancy has already miscarried by the time we performed the scan.

- **Ectopic pregnancy**

This is where the pregnancy is developing outside of the womb but may be too small to see on an ultrasound scan.

What happens next?

To allow us to accurately assess what is happening with your pregnancy:

1. We need to take a blood sample to assess the level of pregnancy hormones in your blood beta HCG and progesterone. The level of these two hormones will help us to establish whether you have an early pregnancy, a miscarriage or an ectopic pregnancy. The blood sample may have to be repeated after 48 hours or a week to give us a clearer picture of the diagnosis.

Information for Patients

2. Certain conditions increase your risk of having an ectopic pregnancy such as previous ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, previous pelvic surgery, presence of a coil (IUCD), being on the mini pill (progesterone only pill) and fertility treatment.
3. If you are at a high risk of an ectopic pregnancy we will suggest that you stay in hospital until a further decision is made on your treatment.
4. If you feel well and your clinical condition is found to be stable you would not need to stay in hospital. We can inform you of your results and what they mean over the telephone.

You can telephone us at any time if you are concerned about the bleeding or pain. If you feel unwell, dizzy or experience severe pain or bleeding, you should seek medical attention.

If you have any questions or queries about your treatment or scan findings during this time, please contact the nursing team within the Early Pregnancy Unit for advice.

Contact Numbers:

Good Hope Hospital	0121 424 7747
Heartlands Hospital	0121 424 3505

Clinical Matron for Gynaecology and Early Pregnancy is Rachel Small

Accessibility

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