



Pregnancy of Uncertain Viability

You have had an ultrasound scan to assess your pregnancy, we have told you that you have a pregnancy in your womb but we have been unable to confirm whether your pregnancy is one that will continue to develop or not. This is called a Pregnancy of Uncertain Viability.

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.

Early pregnancy in the womb:

We would usually expect to see a fetus 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.

Failing pregnancy:

Sometimes this represents a pregnancy that is not developing as it should and it will end in miscarriage.

Symptoms:

You may experience bleeding, pain or both. If the pregnancy is failing, these symptoms may worsen. It is safe to take simple pain killers such as Paracetamol. If you feel unwell, dizzy or experience severe pain or bleeding, you should seek medical attention immediately. A list of contacts is provided at the end of this leaflet.

What happens next?

To allow us to accurately assess what is happening with your pregnancy, we need to assess this pregnancy again by an ultrasound scan in about 2 weeks. Whilst we appreciate that it may be distressing to wait, but it is important that we leave this length of time between scans so that we are able to make meaningful comparisons for a correct diagnosis. This second scan will either show a pregnancy that is developing (*a viable pregnancy) or no sign of development which would mean an early pregnancy demise.

If the pregnancy is failing you may miscarry the pregnancy during the time you are waiting for your repeat scan. 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.

Contact Numbers for the Early Pregnancy Unit:

Good Hope Hospital 01221 424 7747
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital: 0121 424 3505

Lead Midwife for the Early Pregnancy and Miscarriage Care is Rachel Small

Accessibility

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