

PATIENT INFORMATION

Bleeding in Early Pregnancy

Adult A&E

Bleeding in early pregnancy is a common symptom that does not always mean there is a problem. However, bleeding can be a warning sign of miscarriage.

About 20% (1 in 5) of pregnancies miscarry within the first 3 months. Most of these are sporadic and will not happen again.

1 in 100 pregnancies are ectopic, meaning that they implant outside of the womb, most commonly in the fallopian tube. Ectopic pregnancies can be dangerous as they have the potential to rupture and cause bleeding inside the abdomen.

WHAT TESTS TO EXPECT

To find out the position of the pregnancy, you will be offered an ultrasound scan. This can be done via the abdomen or the vagina, depending on your gestation. If no pregnancy is seen, a blood test can be performed to determine the pregnancy hormone level.

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP

You should seek medical attention if you experience:-

- Heavy bleeding (heavier than a period)
- Abdominal pain, especially if it is severe or one sided
- Lightheadedness or feeling faint
- Pain in the shoulders
- Feeling unwell with vomiting or diarrhea
- Collapse

WHO TO CALL

If you are very unwell or require immediate medical attention, you should call 999 or go to your nearest A&E Department. Alternatively, you can call your GP or the Gynaecology (E) Ward at Ormskirk Hospital if you are stable.

USEFUL NUMBERS

E Ward 01695 656901
EPAU 01695 656064

USEFUL CONTACTS

Miscarriage Association
Helpline: 01924 200799
Website: www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

Ectopic Pregnancy Trust
Helpline: 01895 238025
Website: www.ectopic.org.uk

REFERENCES

NICE Guideline CG154 Ectopic Pregnancy and Miscarriage: Diagnosis and Initial Management in Early Pregnancy of Ectopic Pregnancy and Miscarriage (published December 2012)

Adult A&E Telephone: 01704 704128/704437
NHS 111

Please retain this leaflet for future reference

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need
this leaflet in an alternative format**

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at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.
Please access the Friends and Family Test at the following
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<https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/fft/>

Thank you

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