



A guide to...

Pregnancy of unknown location

Patient information

How to contact us

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If you need this leaflet in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01923 217 198** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net



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We are very sorry that we were unable to see the pregnancy on today's scan. We hope this information is useful to you.

What is a pregnancy of unknown location?

This is the term given when we haven't seen your pregnancy on the ultrasound scan today and therefore can't be sure how or where the pregnancy is progressing. There are three possible reasons for this.

1. A very small normal pregnancy

The pregnancy may be normal, but too small to be seen on the scan. This can happen if you are unsure of your dates, or your periods are irregular.

2. A miscarriage

The pregnancy may have already been lost with the bleeding and that is why we cannot see it on the scan. Sometimes the pregnancy test can remain positive for a few weeks after this.

3. An ectopic pregnancy

The pregnancy may be growing outside the uterus (womb). These pregnancies can be difficult to see on the first scan. It is important that we do not miss ectopic pregnancies, because they can be dangerous if not recognised, so we need to monitor you closely.

Why has a blood test been taken?

This is to measure the level of pregnancy hormone Beta HCG.

What is Beta HCG?

This is the pregnancy hormone in the blood. The level of it can be measured and from this result can help us decide where your pregnancy is and what is happening to it. When we have the results, we will let you know when we need to see you again – either for another blood test 48 hrs apart or another scan.

What should I do if I get pain or bleeding?

If you develop severe pain or heavy bleeding, you should contact the Gynaecology Day Assessment Unit immediately on the number below. If you have some mild pain or bleeding and just want advice, ring the EPU (Early Pregnancy Unit) during the day.

Until the final diagnosis is made, we would advise you not to travel outside of the country and to avoid strenuous exercise or sexual intercourse.

If you have any questions please contact –

Gynaecology Day Assessment Unit at Watford General Hospital 01923 217344

Early Pregnancy Unit 01923 217831

Other sources of help

The Miscarriage Association 01924 200799

www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk