



The Ectopic Pregnancy Trust: <https://ectopic.org.uk/>

Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG):  
<https://www.rcog.org.uk/for-the-public/browse-our-patient-information/>

Useful Early pregnancy Unit leaflets:

- Ectopic Pregnancy
- Expectant, surgical and outpatient management of miscarriage
- Treating Ectopic pregnancy with methotrexate

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### Further Information

We endeavor to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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## Early Pregnancy Unit opening hours:

Open: Monday to Friday 0900-1700

USS scanning hours: Monday to Friday 0900-1300

**If the line is engaged, please leave a message and we will call you back.**

## Trying for another pregnancy:

If you wish to try to conceive again after a miscarriage, a resolving pregnancy or an ectopic, we advise waiting until after your next period before trying to get pregnant. If you get pregnant before your next period, this is not harmful. We recommend pre-conceptual folic acid, ensure any medical condition is well managed, stop smoking, be active and maintain a healthy diet and weight. This will ensure you are in good health before getting pregnant.

## Further Information and contact details:

**Early Pregnancy Unit website:**

<https://www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk/early-pregnancy-unit>

**Early Pregnancy Unit email:**

[asp-tr.earlypregnancy@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.earlypregnancy@nhs.net)

The Miscarriage Association Helpline: **01924 200799**

<https://www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk/>

## Pregnancy of Unknown Location

We performed an ultrasound scan today because of bleeding and or pain or a history of problems in your previous pregnancy. Despite a positive pregnancy test, we were not able to see a pregnancy on your scan today. When this happens, we say you have a Pregnancy of Unknown Location (POUL).

This leaflet will give you information about what this could mean and the next steps.

## Why were you unable to see my pregnancy on the scan?

There are 3 possible reasons this may happen:

- **The pregnancy is developing normally in the womb but is too early to be seen on scan**

This is most likely to be the reason if you have not had any vaginal bleeding, you are not sure of the date of your last period, your periods are irregular, your menstrual cycle is longer than four weeks or the USS is performed too early in the pregnancy.

There can be a delay of approximately 1 week between a positive pregnancy test and a very early pregnancy sac being seen on internal (vaginal) scan. A pregnancy sac is usually visible on internal scan a week after you miss a period, and we see a baby a week after the pregnancy sac is seen on scan. This pattern is





We will call you today if we receive your result before the close of work or on the next working day if results are not back by close of work. We may give you a courtesy call if the results are not available by the close of work.

## What do the blood results mean?

These are the possible outcomes of the blood test results:

- **Low hCG and high progesterone.**

This indicates a very early pregnancy that is developing but not yet big enough to be seen on a scan. We will arrange a re-scan when we think we should be able to see the pregnancy on ultrasound scan.

- **Borderline hcg and progesterone**

If the progesterone is borderline, we cannot tell if it is a miscarriage, an early pregnancy, or an ectopic pregnancy from one blood test. We will repeat your blood test in 2 days to gather more information.

If on the second blood test your hCG level is increasing like a healthy pregnancy, we will advise you on when you can come for another scan.

If on the second blood test your hCG level is going down significantly, it is likely you are having an early miscarriage, and

we will continue to monitor your blood tests to ensure it goes back to non-pregnancy level or recommend a home pregnancy test.

If the hCG level is the same or increases slightly or falls slightly, we will either invite you for a further blood test or advise you to come back for another scan to check if we may be able to see the pregnancy.

If your second blood test falls on a weekend or a bank holiday we will arrange a scan on the next working day or occasionally arrange for a repeat blood test on the next working day. The decision will vary between different patients depending on the clinical situation and your symptoms.

- **Very low progesterone**

If your progesterone is very low, it is likely the pregnancy will fail. These types of pregnancies may be within the womb or may be a very small ectopic pregnancy. We call this type of pregnancy a resolving pregnancy. We usually monitor your hormone blood results until it returns to the nonpregnancy range. We may also recommend a repeat scan depending on how quickly your hormone results are reducing or if you develop any concerning symptoms. If the pregnancy was in the womb, you may experience vaginal bleeding. If the pregnancy was in the tube, the body's normal healing process will gradually absorb the pregnancy and you may experience some abdominal discomfort plus/minus some vaginal bleeding.