

Pregnancy of Unknown Location

What is a pregnancy of unknown location (PUL)?

This means that following your appointment today we have not been able to see a pregnancy in your womb on the scan. Unfortunately we are unable to tell if your pregnancy is going to continue or not.

What does this mean?

There are three possibilities:

- **Early intrauterine pregnancy** - the pregnancy is in the womb but earlier than we were expecting so is too small to see on a scan.
- **Miscarriage** – the pregnancy has ended.
- **Ectopic pregnancy** – the pregnancy is developing outside the womb but cannot continue. Approximately 1% of pregnancies are ectopic. Mostly they are situated in the Fallopian tube and can cause pain and bleeding internally. If this is the case, it is important that we identify and treat it.

What happens now?

The doctor will have seen you in order to gain some more information. Your symptoms and past gynaecological history may indicate which possibility applies to you. Because of the small chance that this could be an ectopic pregnancy we will do a blood test to measure the level of pregnancy hormone (hCG) in your blood. We will monitor this level over the coming days to help us decide how best to look after you. Providing you are well you will be asked to return in 48 hours for a repeat blood test. In a few women additional blood tests will be required.

How will I get the results?

One of the doctors will phone you with the hCG result and explain the next step.

When should I seek further advice?

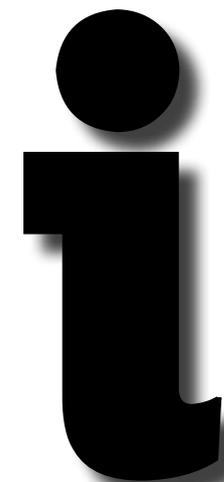
If you develop pain in your lower abdomen that won't go away, or if you suddenly feel unwell or faint, then please contact the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit or attend A&E and give them this leaflet so that they are aware of what investigations you are undergoing.

Contact details

Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (in the Gynaecology department):

9 - 5pm Mon – Fri (01722) 336262 ext 4431 or 2317

Out-of-hours bleep at hospital 1241 (on call doctor).



If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.