

## **PREGNANCY OF UNKNOWN LOCATION**

Following your appointment today, it has not been possible to confirm whether your pregnancy is going to continue or not. We know that it can be difficult to take in all the facts when you are worried or upset, especially in a hospital environment.

There are three main reasons for you not being told exactly what is happening.

These might be that:

1) it is simply too early to see the pregnancy or 2) the pregnancy is not growing as it should, and that is possibly why you may have bled or 3) there is a possibility of an ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy outside the womb) although this is rare, at this stage cannot be excluded and it is too early to diagnose.

To help us find out what is happening we need to check the pregnancy hormone level in your blood and perhaps repeat the scan in a few days depending on the hormone levels. The pregnancy hormone that is measured is called BHCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin). It is a hormone produced by the placental tissue and its level roughly doubles every 2 days in a normally growing early pregnancy.

Bleeding can be very common, and as long as it is not too heavy (for e.g. heavier than a period) you can stay at home. If you develop crampy abdominal pains you may take paracetamol tablets. However, if the pain is too bad and you are worried please do not hesitate to phone either the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) or the Emergency Room if the unit is closed.

- **Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit**
  - Opening hours Monday until Friday 9am until 4pm
  - Tel: 01-4085732
- **Emergency Room**
  - Tel: 01-4085216

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