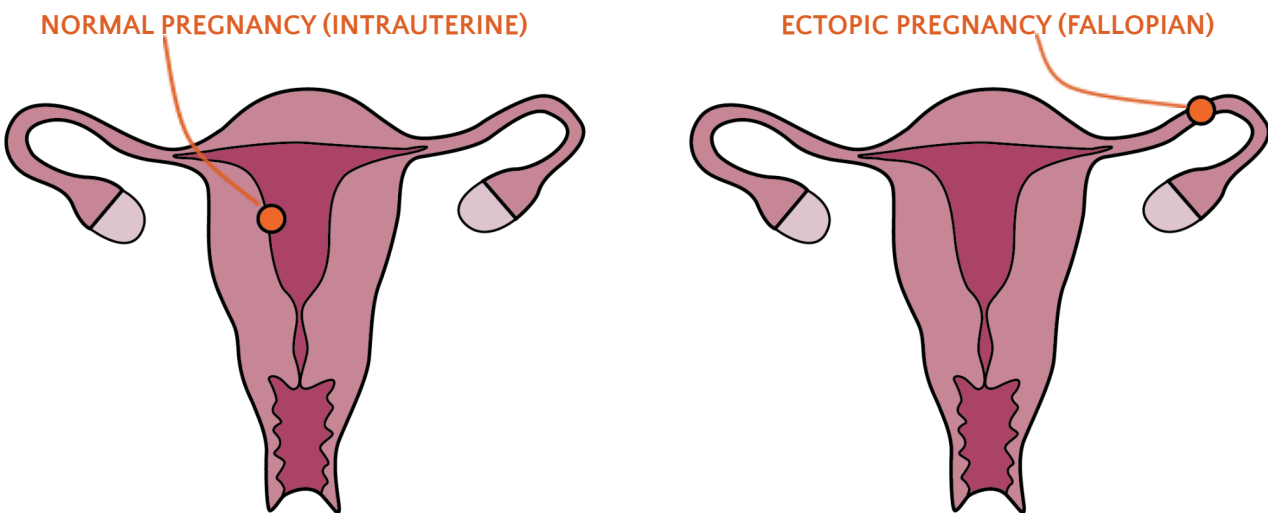


PREGNANCY OF UNKNOWN LOCATION

In most pregnancies, a fertilized egg will implant and grow inside the uterus. Rarely, the fertilized egg can implant outside the uterus, typically in the fallopian tube. This is called an **ectopic pregnancy** and can lead to a medical emergency. Ectopic pregnancies can be detected with imaging, such as an ultrasound. If no imaging has been done, we use the term “pregnancy of unknown location.”

For people who are at very low risk for ectopic pregnancy, we proceed without an ultrasound. Additional testing, such as more frequent blood tests, may be required to ensure the pregnancy hormone is responding as expected to treatment.

Here is some important information about ectopic pregnancy to monitor.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ECTOPIC PREGNANCY?

The **early** symptoms are the same as a normal pregnancy:

- Missed period
- Nausea
- Need to pee often
- Breast pain

The **later** symptoms may include:

- Spotting or bleeding
- Pain in belly or low back

An ectopic pregnancy can rupture (break open). This is a **medical emergency**. If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest hospital immediately:

- Sudden, severe pelvic pain
- Shoulder pain
- Feeling dizzy or weak
- Fainting

WHAT TESTS DO YOU NEED?

If you have risk factors or symptoms of an ectopic pregnancy, you will need urgent tests including ultrasound, blood test and a pelvic exam. You may need these tests more than once.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

Ectopic pregnancy requires urgent testing and treatment. The hospital specialist may recommend either an injection medication or a surgical procedure. Follow-up with the clinician is important to ensure your treatment is successful.

WHAT IS THE RISK FOR THE FUTURE?

After an ectopic pregnancy, your risk of having another is higher. It may be more difficult for you to get pregnant. Make sure to tell your clinician if you have had an ectopic pregnancy in the past.

