

Procedure Information Sheet - Ectopic Pregnancy

Introduction

The fertilized ovum implants outside the uterine cavity. It is the major cause of maternal mortality in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Types

Tubal pregnancy, nontubal ectopic pregnancy.

Symptoms

Vaginal bleeding and abdominal pain.

Management

1. Medical treatment

- In careful selected cases only, systemic medication e.g. some cytotoxic drug.
- Follow by a serial hCG measurement and pelvic ultrasound.

2. Surgical treatment

- This is definitely the treatment of choice when there is internal bleeding or impending rupture of the fallopian tube.
- If medical treatment fails.
- If hCG level is not falling at a satisfactory rate or to a satisfactory level.

Procedure

1. General anaesthesia.
2. Surgical treatment may be carried out laparoscopically or through a mini-laparotomy incision.
3. In either case treatment may be by removal of the fallopian tube (salpingectomy) or by aspirating the product of gestation through an incision in the wall of the affected fallopian tube.
4. Abdominal wounds closed.
5. All tissue removed will be sent for histopathology examination or disposed of as appropriate unless otherwise specified.

Pre-operative information

1. You will need to sign a consent form and your doctor will explain to you the reason, procedure and possible complications.
2. No food or drink for 6 to 8 hours before operation.

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3. Blood taking for blood typing and screening.
4. Pubic hair is shaved if necessary as instructed by your doctor.

Possible risks and complications

- Anaesthetic complications.
- May need blood transfusion if excessive bleeding occurs.
- Risk of injury to neighboring organs e.g. the bladder, ureter, bowel or abdominal vessels.
- Pelvic infection.
- Wound complication.

Post- operative information

1. You may take analgesics as prescribed by your doctor.
2. Contact your doctor if severe pain, purulent discharge, excessive vaginal bleeding, or fever (body temperature above 38°C or 100°F) occurs.
3. Increased risk of future ectopic pregnancy.
4. Avoid sexual intercourse during medical treatment and use effective method of contraception for the next 3 months.

Risk if the operation not performed or if medical treatment fails

Rupture with internal bleeding leads to shock and death.

Remark

The above-mentioned procedural information is not exhaustive, other unforeseen complications may occur in special patient groups or individual differently. Please contact your physician for further enquiry.

Reference: http://www21.ha.org.hk/smartpatient/tc/operationstests_procedures.html

I acknowledge that the above information concerning my operation/procedure has been explained to me by Dr. _____. I have also been given the opportunity to ask questions and receive adequate explanations concerning my condition and the doctor's treatment plan.

Name: _____

Pt No.: _____ Case No.: _____

Sex/Age: _____ Unit Bed No: _____

Case Reg Date & Time: _____

Attn Dr: _____

Patient / Relative Signature: _____

Patient / Relative Name: _____

Relationship (if any): _____

Date: _____