

Unfortunately if the pregnancy is miscarrying, it is not possible to stop this, although 50% of women who attend EPAU with bleeding continue in their pregnancy.

Contact

Our staff at the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) are here to help you so please contact them if your bleeding becomes heavier or you have any questions.

EPAU

Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm
Saturday & Sunday 8:15am – 12:30pm
on
0121 335 8090

Outside of these hours, please
contact **Ward 8** on
0121 335 8180

Information for patients

Bleeding in Early Pregnancy

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This is a worrying time for you and your partner, but one in ten women experience bleeding in early pregnancy. Although this is often not caused by anything serious, it could be a warning sign of a miscarriage.

This leaflet will provide information on bleeding in early pregnancy so you are fully informed.

What are the causes?

- **Spotting –**

Light bleeding at the time your first period after conception would have been due. This occurs as the foetus implants itself in the wall of your womb.

- **Cervical Ectropian –**

Harmless changes to the cervix can cause bleeding especially after intercourse.

- **Miscarriage –**

Occurs in 1 out of 4 pregnancies under 12 weeks.

- **Ectopic Pregnancy –**

Less common but can be life-threatening to the mother.

- **Infection**

- **Unknown**

What will happen next?

You will see a nurse or a doctor who will ask you questions about the bleeding and your pregnancy. An internal vaginal examination may be carried out as well as a urine pregnancy test and blood tests. An ultrasound scan may be booked.

The ultrasound scan

An ultrasound scan may be booked, but may not be for the same day. It will be carried out in the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU). This scan will be an abdominal and/or a trans-vaginal scan. Both scans are safe and do not increase your chance of a miscarriage.

What do I do if my scan is not on the same day?

DO Carry on with normal routine Take painkillers (paracetamol) if in pain Keep hydrated

DON'T Do any heavy lifting Have intercourse until the bleeding has stopped

Please attend your scan appointment and try not to worry.

What should I do if I have more bleeding before the scan appointment?

If the bleeding is lighter than your normal period keep your scan appointment.

If the bleeding is heavier than your normal period please contact EPAU or attend A&E

What will happen after the scan?

If the scan is normal – you will be reassured and sent home.

If the scan is abnormal – the doctor or nurse will explain the next step and will give you further information in another leaflet.

You will be told if you need to come back in the future for a follow up appointment.

When will the bleeding stop?

There is nothing that can be given to stop the bleeding.

It can take up to ten days for the bleeding to settle.

Please contact EPAU or attend A&E if:

- The bleeding lasts for more than ten days after the scan
- The bleeding becomes heavier than a normal period