

# An inconclusive pregnancy scan

Information and advice for patients

## *Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit*

### **What is an inconclusive pregnancy scan?**

An inconclusive pregnancy scan is when you have had a positive pregnancy test, but your ultrasound scan has not shown a pregnancy in your womb.

### **What causes and inconclusive scan?**

Your scan may be inconclusive for one of the following reasons:

- It is too early to see the pregnancy.
- The pregnancy may not be growing as it should.
- The pregnancy is growing outside of your womb (this is an ectopic pregnancy).
- You have had a miscarriage.

### **What happens next?**

To help us find out what is happening you will need to have a blood test to check the pregnancy hormone level in your blood. This hormone is called HCG (human chorionic gonadotrophin) and is produced by the tissue in a baby's placenta. The level of this hormone doubles every 2 days in an early pregnancy which is growing normally.

You will either be given the results of the test whilst you are still at the early pregnancy unit, or will be contacted by telephone once you have gone home. The results are usually ready within 4 hours.

The results will be reviewed by the early pregnancy assessment unit team and they will plan what care you need next.

### **Symptoms to report**

If you develop any of the following symptoms please contact the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit:

- Sharp tummy pains
- Increasing crampy pains that do not improve after taking painkillers
- Heavy vaginal bleeding
- Passing clots of blood from your vagina
- Feeling faint
- Feeling dizzy
- Feeling unwell

If any of these symptoms are severe please go to your local A&E department.

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### Contact details

#### Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit

City Hospital: 0121 507 5329

Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm

Sandwell Hospital: 0121 507 3794

Monday – Friday, 8am – 12.30pm

### Sources used for the information in this leaflet

- The Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, H. Sagili et al, 'Pregnancy of unknown location: an evidence-based approach to management', October 2008
- United Kingdom Association of Sonographer, 'Guidelines for professional working standards: Ultrasound practice', October 2008

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5495 or email: [swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net)



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