

# ECTOPIC PREGNANCY

An ectopic pregnancy is when the fertilised egg implants outside the womb, usually in one of the fallopian tubes (95%). As the fertilised egg begins to grow in the fallopian tube it can burst or severely damage the tube, resulting in internal bleeding which must be treated immediately.

Ectopic pregnancies are considered a medical emergency as they can be life-threatening. Unfortunately, an ectopic pregnancy cannot be moved into the womb and therefore can't be saved.

Symptoms of ectopic pregnancy can begin as early as 4 weeks and up to, or even later than, 12 weeks pregnant. If you experience some or all of these symptoms it is important you see your doctor or specialist for a check-up straight away. Symptoms can include:



**LATE OR MISSED PERIOD AND A POSITIVE PREGNANCY TEST**



## **UNUSUAL VAGINAL BLEEDING**

Unusual vaginal bleeding (ongoing bleeding that may be red or brown/black and watery or could be on/off and lighter or heavier than usual).



## **SHOULDER TIP PAIN**

Pain around where your shoulder ends and your arm starts.



## **ABDOMEN OR LOWER BACK PAIN**

Pain and cramping in the lower abdomen or lower back. You may also experience sudden, severe pain in the lower abdomen (if the fallopian tube bursts).



### **PAIN IN ONE SIDE OF THE ABDOMEN**

Persistent or intermittent pain on one side of the lower abdomen.



### **BOWEL OR BLADDER PROBLEMS**

Bowel or bladder problems (diarrhoea, pain when you urinate or open your bowels, sharp shooting vaginal pain).



### **FEELING LIGHT HEADED**

Dizziness, fainting or collapsing.



**An ectopic pregnancy is considered a medical emergency. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms above, heavy bleeding, severe cramping, and/or feel very unwell, please go to your local emergency department, or call 000 immediately.**

If you are concerned about your health or have any questions, contact your healthcare provider or one of the health information hotlines: Health Direct on 1800 022 222 - Open 24/7 or, Pregnancy, Birth and Baby on 1800 882 436 – Open 7am to midnight (AET)

## **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?**

Visit our website by scanning the QR code below or visit [miscarriageaustralia.com.au](https://miscarriageaustralia.com.au)

You can also find more information from your GP or the website of the hospital or clinic you will be attending



## **WHERE CAN I FIND SUPPORT?**

Visit our website by scanning the QR code below or visit [miscarriageaustralia.com.au/finding-miscarriage-support/](https://miscarriageaustralia.com.au/finding-miscarriage-support/)

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Miscarriage Australia strives to provide current and evidence-based information to everyone. In developing the website, we engaged an expert advisory committee to review the information to ensure our resources are evidence based and reflect current best-practice. The information provided in this factsheet is designed to support, not replace, the relationship that exists between a patient/user and their existing health care professional(s).