

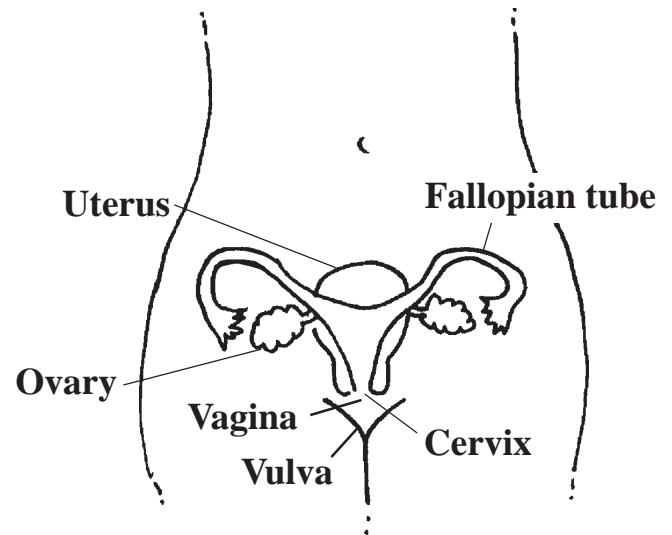
# Tubal Pregnancy and Methotrexate Treatment



## What is a tubal pregnancy?

A normal pregnancy takes place in a woman's uterus. If a pregnancy starts on the ovary, cervix or any where inside the belly (abdomen), it is called an ectopic pregnancy.

The most common place for an ectopic pregnancy to start is in the Fallopian tube. This is called a tubal pregnancy. A pregnancy in a Fallopian tube can burst the tube and cause problems such as bleeding inside your body. This can put your life in danger.



## How will I know if I have a tubal pregnancy?

Women who have a tubal pregnancy may not have symptoms for 6 to 8 weeks.

Common symptoms are:

- Changes in your menstrual period.
- A small amount of dark colored vaginal bleeding.
- No monthly period at all.
- Back pain.
- Feeling sick to your stomach (nausea).
- Pain in the belly (abdomen) which may be:
  - Cramping or sharp.
  - There all the time, or comes and goes.
  - On one side or over the whole belly (abdomen).



## How will my tubal pregnancy be treated?

A tubal pregnancy must be ended because of the danger to you. Your health care provider will order blood tests and a vaginal ultrasound which is very important to help decide if you can have methotrexate treatment or if you need surgery.

## Methotrexate Treatment

Methotrexate (MTX) is a medicine used to treat some types of cancer and also to end tubal pregnancy. It is given in small amounts which are safe. You will get one shot (injection) of this medicine.

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## What are common side effects I may have after this treatment?

- Feeling sick to your stomach (nausea).
- Vomiting
- You may have some discomfort in your belly (abdomen) for 5 -10 days after your shot.

## What special things do I need to know?

- You will need to come back to the clinic a few times for blood tests and to be checked after your shot. This is to be sure your medicine has worked. Some women have to have a second shot of Methotrexate before the tubal pregnancy ends.
- Ask your health care provider when you may:
  - Drink alcohol.
  - Take vitamins.
  - Have sex.
- Tell your health care provider if you have:
  - More pain in your belly (abdomen).
  - Heavy bleeding from your vagina.
- Use birth control to keep from getting pregnant for 3 months after treatment. Talk with your health care provider about the best type of birth control for you.
- Keep a copy of the papers about your Methotrexate treatment at home. Bring them to your next clinic visit.

### Call 911 and come to the Emergency Room for:



- Sudden, sharp stomach pain.
- Trouble breathing.
- Heavy sweating.
- Trouble urinating (peeing).
- Feeling faint (as if you may fall out).
- Pain in your shoulder.

