

# What is Methotrexate Treatment for Ectopic Pregnancy?

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You have been diagnosed with an **ectopic pregnancy**. This is a pregnancy in your fallopian tube. Usually, a baby grows in the uterus or “womb” (the hollow, pear-shaped organ in the pelvis) during pregnancy. If you have an ectopic pregnancy, the fertilized egg grows in the wrong place outside the uterus (usually in the fallopian tubes).

## **How will my ectopic pregnancy be treated?**

We will treat your ectopic pregnancy using a combination of medications. The medications are given by an injection of a medication call Methotrexate. After the injection, you will need two blood draws in the next week. After that you will have blood drawn weekly until the blood tests tell us that your ectopic pregnancy is completely resolved. You may need a second injection or surgery.

1. It is very important that you attend all of your appointments in the clinic and have your blood drawn when recommended. Up to 10% of patients (10 out of 100) do not respond to methotrexate therapy and require surgery. A small percentage of people will require a second dose of methotrexate and this can only be determined from blood test results.
2. Until your ectopic pregnancy has resolved completely, please follow these restrictions:
  - No alcohol (beer, wine, wine coolers, hard seltzer, or hard liquors)
  - No intercourse or sexual activity
  - No vigorous athletic activity (such as aerobics, contact sports, horseback riding, etc)
  - No multivitamins containing folic acid

3. Please call the VonVoigtlander Ob/Gyn clinic, OB Triage or gynecologist-on-call if you develop any problems or symptoms. This would specifically include symptoms such as:
- Severe abdominal (belly) pain
  - Excessive vaginal bleeding (soaking more than a maxi pad every 1-2 hours)
  - Shoulder pain
  - Dizziness or light-headedness
  - Mild to moderate lower abdominal pain is a common occurrence during treatment.
  - If you need to seek immediate medical attention, tell the clinician who cares for you that you are being treated for an ectopic pregnancy. If for some reason you need to be seen outside of Michigan Medicine, tell the clinician to contact your Michigan Medicine gynecologists. It is important that we communicate about the type of treatment you have received.

### **What is the contact information?**

- VonVoigtlander Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic: (734) 763-6295
- VonVoigtlander OB Triage: (734) 764-8134
- Center for Reproductive Medicine: 734-763-4323
- Michigan Medicine Hospital Paging Operator: (734) 936-6267: Ask for the gynecologist on call

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