

Information for patients after an inconclusive result on ultrasound scan

Following your visit today, it has not been possible to confirm the location of the pregnancy and/or whether your pregnancy is continuing or not. It can be difficult to take in all the facts when you are worried or upset, especially in a hospital environment.

The inconclusive ultrasound scan result may be because:

1. It is simply too early to see the pregnancy
Or,
2. The pregnancy is not growing as it should and that is possibly why you have started bleeding (i.e. you may have miscarried)
Or,
3. Less commonly, the pregnancy is growing outside the womb (ectopic pregnancy) and could not be identified on the ultrasound scan.

Blood test

To help us find out what is happening we need to check the pregnancy hormone level (hCG) in your blood. You will be contacted with the result by telephone at home.

The blood test is usually repeated in two days time, however sometimes one blood test is enough to make a diagnosis. Whether the level has increased, decreased or stayed the same will guide us as to what is happening in the pregnancy. In normal pregnancy the hCG usually doubles every 2 days. The hCG test may be used in combination with another hormone test (a progesterone estimation) taken from the same blood sample.

Further advice

Bleeding may continue and so long as it is less heavy than a normal period you can stay at home. If you have pain or cramps you may take paracetamol. However, if the pain is severe and you are worried, please do not hesitate to ring the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) or Cley ward if the clinic is closed.

The EPAU staff are ready to support you during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to phone for advice or support. Contact number is given below.

Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (Monday to Friday 09.00 – 17.00 hours and weekends 08.30 – 13.00 hours) **01603 286252**

Cley, Gynaecology Ward during out of hours **01603 287242**