

Ectopic Pregnancy

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Key Points

- Implantation of embryo outside the uterine cavity.
- Life threatening emergency.
- Ultrasonography mode of diagnosis.

Ectopic pregnancy (EP) is known as the pregnancy in which embryo implants outside the uterine cavity. EP has different types, such as tubal, interstitial, ovarian, abdominal, heterotopic, cervical and scar pregnancy.

There are 97% chances of tubal ectopic pregnancies which occur in different parts of fallopian tube, and other 3% occurs in abdominal cavity, ovary and cervix.¹

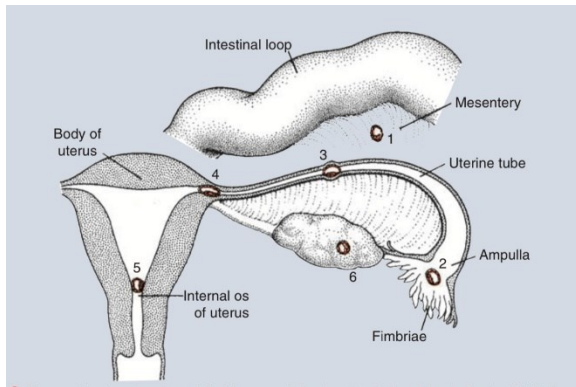


Figure: Abnormal implantation sites of blastocyst.¹

Ectopic pregnancy is the most severe and life-threatening emergency at the early stage of a pregnancy, there is a high risk of tubal rupture and catastrophic hemorrhage which leads to maternal death.²

Diagnosis

There is a test for diagnosing ectopic pregnancy known as ultrasonography. The EP is suspected when beta-hCG level of a patient is higher than 6,500 mIU per ml and the gestational sac does not show in the uterus.³

Complications

If the EP is not diagnosed at the early stage it may lead to maternal death as this leads to a

gynecological emergency with substantial bleeding into the abdomen. The treatment suggested for the cure of this kind of pregnancy is surgical.

The need for radical surgery and rate of maternal death, both can reduce with the appropriate use of laparoscopy. If the diagnosed occur at the early stage of pregnancy, some medical treatments can be used. But with the time, there is a huge risk of complications.⁴

References

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