

Advice following Ultrasound scans where it is unclear what is happening to your pregnancy

We strive to provide as clear a clinical picture as possible for you and your family when you visit the early pregnancy department here at the RD&E. There are situations where, unfortunately, it can be difficult for us to tell you definitively about your pregnancy. In some situations the pregnancy is still at a very early gestation (number of weeks) and it is not possible for the pregnancy to be clearly seen in the womb.

One common situation is when an ultrasound scan shows that there is a pregnancy in the womb but the scan cannot confirm whether this is a pregnancy that will develop normally or one that may miscarry.

This is referred to as an intrauterine pregnancy of uncertain viability. A repeat ultrasound scan will be arranged for you 14 days later to provide more information. In some circumstances a blood test may be taken to check your pregnancy hormone (bHCG) although this test is not always helpful and is not always performed.

If your pregnancy is very early you may find you need more than one scan to enable the sonographer to see the pregnancy clearly, and occasionally repeated blood tests to check whether your pregnancy hormone levels are increasing or decreasing.

Sometimes, at your first scan, the clinician may unfortunately suspect from the ultrasound findings that a miscarriage is likely. However, national guidance regarding the size of the pregnancy and when we can diagnose a miscarriage is there to ensure there is no doubt about the findings, and in nearly all cases there is a need for a repeat ultrasound scan.

During this time some women may experience some heavy bleeding and stomach cramps indicating a miscarriage. You are perfectly safe at home unless the bleeding does not settle within a few hours. If you are uncertain about the bleeding or pain you can contact Clinic 2 or Wynard Ward out of normal working hours for advice.

In some cases the bleeding may not occur and a miscarriage may not be diagnosed until your next scan. The lapse of time between scans allows the clinical situation to become much clearer.

Contact Telephone numbers

Clinic 2 = **01392 406503**

Wynard ward = **01392 406511 / 406512**

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