

Information for Women Receiving Methotrexate as Medical Treatment of Ectopic Pregnancy

You have been given a dose of methotrexate to resolve your Ectopic pregnancy.

Some women experience some side effects after treatment with methotrexate, but this is more common when you have had more than one dose. You may experience some, all or none of them, but so you are able to recognise them, here is a list of them.

- Nausea
- Skin rash
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Mouth and lip ulcers
- Colicky abdominal pain

Here are some important facts you need to be aware of;

Things you should not do;

- You should not take folic acid or multivitamins.
- You should avoid eating "wind" producing foods e.g. broccoli, cabbage and leeks.
- You should not have any alcohol until your follow up is clear as it may affect your liver tests.
- You should not use tampons, have sexual intercourse or internal examinations (vaginal ultrasound by a trained specialist is safe).

- You should not take aspirin or brufen for pain relief but you may take paracetamol or codeine.
- You should not get pregnant for three months after your follow up is clear, so you will need to take an effective form of contraception.

Things you need to do;

- You will need to have several follow up appointments with us over the next few weeks. It is very important you attend these to ensure the treatment is working.
- You should drink plenty of fluids.
- You can expect to have some vaginal bleeding, but you do not need to contact us unless it is heavy or you are worried.
- If you have increased pain at any time, you should contact us as you may need to be admitted for observation.

Contact Telephone Numbers

- **Early pregnancy coordinator**
01392 406504 / 406503
- **Out of hours / Weekends / Bank Holidays**
Wynard Ward **01392 406512**

Advice is available 24 hours a day on the above numbers please do not hesitate to call if you are worried about anything.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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