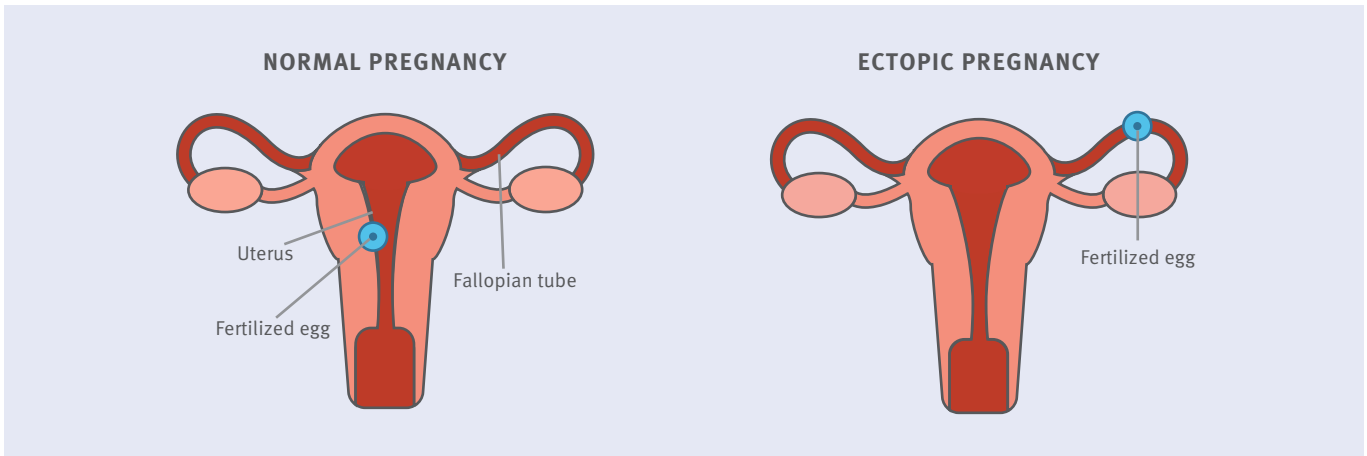




# ECTOPIC PREGNANCY

In a normal pregnancy, a fertilized egg grows inside the uterus (womb). An ectopic pregnancy means that the fertilized egg grows outside of the uterus, most often in a fallopian tube. Ectopic pregnancy is uncommon, but it is an urgent problem.



## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ECTOPIC PREGNANCY?

The **early** symptoms are the same as those of a normal pregnancy:

- Missed period
- Nausea
- Need to pee often
- Breast/chest pain

The **later** symptoms may include:

- Spotting or bleeding
- Pain in belly or low back

An ectopic pregnancy can rupture (break open). This is an emergency. Rupture causes heavy bleeding inside the belly, leading to:

- Sudden, severe pain in lower belly
- Fainting

If you have these symptoms you should seek urgent medical attention.

## WHAT TESTS DO YOU NEED?

To find out whether or not you have an ectopic pregnancy, you may need these tests:

- Pelvic exam
- Blood tests
- Ultrasound

You may need these tests more than once.

## WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

Ectopic pregnancy requires urgent testing and treatment. Some people can take methotrexate, given in a shot. Other people need surgery. You will need many office visits and phone calls for a few weeks. Your clinician must have a way to reach you.

## WHAT IS THE RISK FOR THE FUTURE?

After an ectopic pregnancy, your risk of having one again is higher. It may be harder for you to get pregnant. Make sure to tell your clinician that you had an ectopic pregnancy in the past.