

What does an inconclusive scan result mean?

Following your appointment today, it has not been possible to confirm whether your pregnancy is going to continue or not. We know that it can be difficult to take in all the facts when you are worried or upset, especially in a hospital environment.

There are three main reasons for you not being told exactly what is happening:

- The pregnancy is in the womb but it is simply too early to see the pregnancy by ultrasound scan.
- You have had a bleeding like a period and may have already had an early miscarriage.
- There is a possibility of an ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy outside the womb). This rare but at this stage cannot be excluded and it is too early to diagnose.

Blood tests

To help us find out what is happening we do a series of blood tests that measure the levels of pregnancy hormone (HCG) over 48 hours. In an ongoing pregnancy we would expect them to double over this time and, conversely, fall in miscarriage. However in an ectopic pregnancy or a failing pregnancy the levels of HCG may rise or fall sub-optimally. If this happens we would bring you back for a further scan and a review. We will contact you with the results of the blood tests and advise you accordingly.

Further advice

Bleeding and cramping abdominal pains can be very common and as long as it is not too heavy and you are coping with your symptoms you can stay at home. However, if you develop sharp pains, in your lower abdomen that do not go away, or you feel suddenly unwell or faint then do not hesitate to contact us on the numbers below. Both the early pregnancy unit and the staff on orchard ward, our gynaecology ward, are ready to support you during this difficult time.

Contact numbers

Gynaecology Outpatients/ Early pregnancy Unit:	9am-5pm	01234 792007
Orchard Gynaecology Ward:	24 hours	01234 792219