

Ectopic Pregnancy

What is it?

An ectopic pregnancy can also be referred to as a “tubal pregnancy.” An ectopic pregnancy is one that is growing in the wrong place in your body.

While a pregnancy normally grows inside the uterus, an ectopic pregnancy can be in the fallopian tubes (where the egg and sperm meet), in the ovary, cervix, or the abdominal cavity (belly).

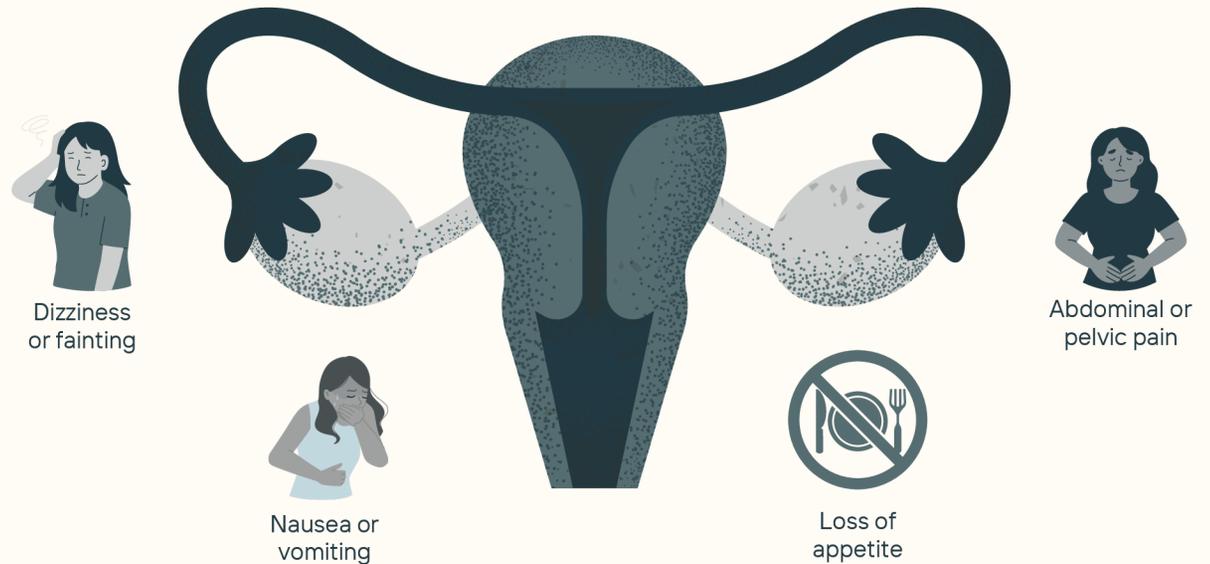
A pregnancy cannot survive outside the uterus and cannot be placed inside the uterus.

Symptoms

With a tubal pregnancy, you may not experience any bleeding. You may have:

- Sharp or stabbing pain on one side only that may come and go and vary in intensity. The pain may be in the pelvis, abdomen, or even the shoulder and neck due to blood from a ruptured ectopic pregnancy gathering up under the diaphragm
- Vaginal bleeding, heavier or lighter than your normal period
- Gastrointestinal symptoms
- Weakness, dizziness, or fainting

Ectopic Pregnancy Symptoms



Treatments

- 1 It is important to contact your doctor immediately if you are experiencing sharp pain that lasts more than a few minutes or if you have bleeding. If you do not already have a doctor, go to the emergency department of a nearby hospital.
- 2 Ectopic pregnancies are confirmed or ruled out by blood tests and a repeat pregnancy test, pelvic exam, and/or an ultrasound.
- 3 Medication may be used to safely treat an ectopic pregnancy.
- 4 Surgical intervention may be needed.
- 5 Discuss the Rh factor with your healthcare provider.