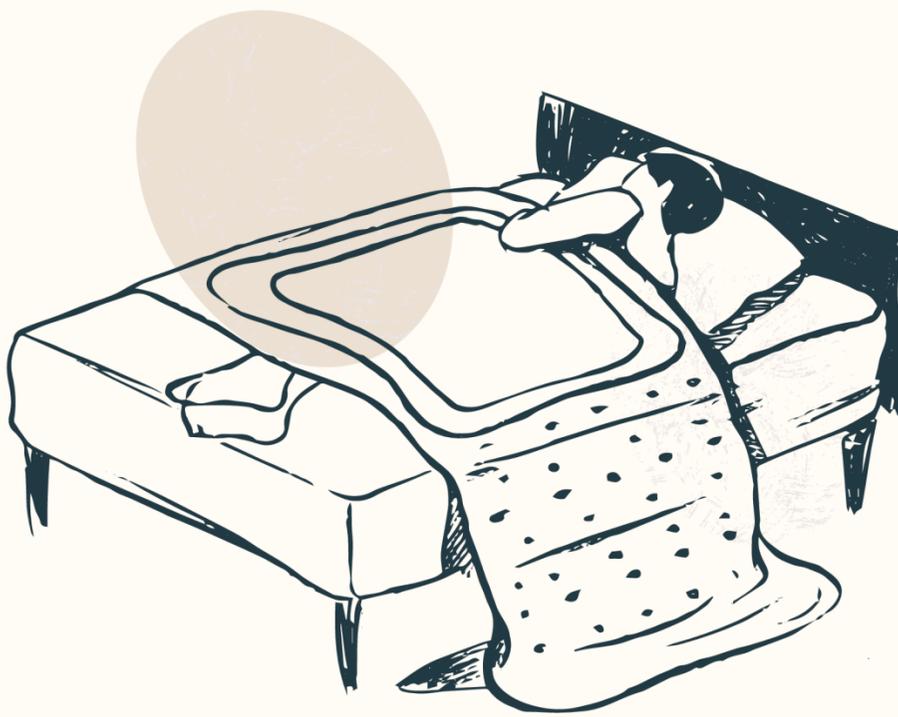


Miscarriage

Definition:

In medical terms, a miscarriage is called a spontaneous abortion. A miscarriage is the loss of a pregnancy when less than halfway (< 20 weeks) through the pregnancy.

Some miscarriages are completely silent. However, one or more of the included symptoms may suggest (yet cannot prove) that you are miscarrying or may have already miscarried.



In this difficult time there are two things you should know:

- 1** There is likely nothing you did or did not do that caused the pregnancy to be lost.
- 2** Most women who miscarry go on to experience full-term pregnancies in the future.

Treatment

Because continued blood loss can harm you:

- Seek immediate medical attention
- Go immediately to your doctor, or if you have none
- Go to the emergency room of a nearby hospital

If all the tissue of the pregnancy has been passed, you may be treated with medication and followed closely outside of the hospital by your physician.

Miscarriage will either be confirmed or ruled out by:

- Pelvic examination
- Ultrasound
- Falling hormone levels in your blood

If some tissue remains in your uterus, you may need to have a procedure done to remove it and prevent hemorrhage, or you may be given a medication to induce removal of the tissue.

If your blood type is Rh negative, you will be given an injection of RhoGAM which prevents Rh incompatibility problems in future pregnancies. Please discuss the Rh factor with your healthcare provider.

Symptoms

- Bleeding greater than your typical menstrual period
- Mild to severe back pain (often worse than normal menstrual cramps)
- True contractions that are very painful, occurring every 5-20 minutes
- Bright red bleeding that saturates more than one pad with blood in one hour, with or without cramps
- Tissue or clot-like material passing from the vagina
- Sudden decrease in signs of pregnancy

