

INCONCLUSIVE PREGNANCY SCAN INFORMATION.

What is an inconclusive scan?

You have been scanned in the Early Pregnancy Unit to assess your pregnancy. Unfortunately we are unable to give you a definite outcome today, this is referred to as an inconclusive scan.

There are a number of possible reasons for this:

1. **A very early viable pregnancy** – The pregnancy may be normal, but is too small to be seen clearly on scan. This usually happens in women who are unsure of their dates, or in those who have a long menstrual cycle.
2. **A miscarriage** – The pregnancy may have already miscarried and therefore cannot be identified on scan. A pregnancy test can remain positive for a number of weeks after a miscarriage.
3. **An ectopic pregnancy** – The pregnancy may be growing outside the womb (uterus). Often ectopic pregnancies are growing in the fallopian tubes and so are difficult to see on scan.
4. **A pregnancy of unknown location (PUL)** – Again this refers to a pregnancy growing outside of the womb. A pregnancy test is positive, but there is no pregnancy identified on scan and no history to suggest the pregnancy has already miscarried.

Why has a blood test been taken?

We have taken a blood test to measure the amount of pregnancy hormone in your blood. This hormone level can help us to establish what is happening in your pregnancy. Assuming you are feeling well, we will allow you to go home and contact you with the result. Often we cannot make a diagnosis from a single result and need to repeat the blood test 48 hours later. This allows us to look at a comparison between the 2 results, and make a diagnosis. Once we have these results we will discuss with you what will happen next.

What if the bleeding and/or pain get worse?

If you develop severe pain which is not controlled using simple analgesia, or heavy blood loss with clots, then you must seek help immediately. Either contact the EPAU, GP or GP out of hours. Until you have a final diagnosis we advise that you avoid strenuous activity, do not travel long distance and ensure you are able to access help in case of emergency.

EARLY PREGNANCY ASSESSMENT UNIT, 01423 555373.

If you require this information in an alternative language or format (such as Braille, audiotape or large print), please ask the staff who are looking after you.

