



What is an Ectopic Pregnancy?

An **ectopic pregnancy** occurs when a fertilised egg implants **outside the uterus**, most commonly in the **fallopian tube**. Unfortunately, an ectopic pregnancy **cannot continue** because the fallopian tube **cannot support a growing pregnancy**.

Treatment options depend on the size, location, and symptoms of the ectopic pregnancy.

✅ **Surgical removal** – This is the most common treatment and may be performed via:

- **Laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery** – Minimally invasive procedure.
 - **Laparotomy (open surgery)** – Required in complex or emergency cases.
 - ✅ **Fallopian tube removal (salpingectomy)** – The entire affected tube is removed to reduce the risk of future ectopic pregnancies.
 - ✅ **Fallopian tube preservation (salpingotomy)** – The pregnancy is removed while leaving the tube intact, but this increases the risk of another ectopic pregnancy in the same location.
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Recovery After Surgery

✅ The procedure is done under **general anaesthesia** in an **operating theatre**. ✅ **Hospital stay** – Usually at least **one night**, but may be longer depending on recovery. ✅ **Follow-up appointment in 6 weeks** – To ensure complete healing and discuss future pregnancy planning if needed. ✅ **Pain management** – Pain relief will be provided, and mild cramping is normal. ✅ **Rest and activity** – Avoid heavy lifting and strenuous activity for a few weeks.



What Are the Risks?

As with any surgery, there are potential risks and complications, including:

Common Risks

- ✅ **Mild pain and bloating** – Due to trapped gas from keyhole surgery, which should resolve in a few days.
- ✅ **Light vaginal bleeding** – Normal for a short period after surgery.
- ✅ **Fatigue and emotional distress** – Support is available if needed.

Less Common but Serious Risks


- **Bleeding** – In rare cases, a blood transfusion may be required.
- **Injury to nearby organs** – The **bladder, bowel, or ureter** may be affected, sometimes requiring further surgery.
- **Infection** – In the uterus, fallopian tubes, or wound, requiring antibiotics.
- **Incomplete removal of pregnancy tissue** – May require additional treatment.
- **Adhesion formation** – Internal scar tissue can develop and cause pain or fertility issues.

- **Wound healing problems** – Particularly in patients with diabetes or other risk factors.

General Surgery Risks

- **Blood clots (DVT/PE)** – Rare but possible.
 - **Lung complications** – Such as trapped gas causing **breathing or heart problems**.
 - **Heart attack or stroke** – Extremely rare but possible risks with general anaesthesia.
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! When to Seek Medical Attention

 Contact your doctor if you experience:

- **Severe or worsening abdominal pain**
 - **Heavy or prolonged bleeding**
 - **Fever, chills, or foul-smelling vaginal discharge** (signs of infection)
 - **Dizziness, fainting, or difficulty breathing**
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Further Information & Support

For more details, visit:  **Queensland Health – Women’s Health**
Services: www.health.qld.gov.au  **RANZCOG (Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists):** www.ranzcog.edu.au  **Northern Health – Gynaecology Services:** www.nh.org.au  **Your GP or healthcare provider**

◆ **Ectopic pregnancy is a serious condition, but early treatment can help ensure a safe recovery. If you have concerns, speak with your doctor.** 