



Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

## Methotrexate Treatment of Ectopic Pregnancy Instructions

1. Until your doctor tells you the ectopic pregnancy has resolved, DO NOT USE ...
  - Alcohol, including beer and wine
  - Vitamins that contain folic acid, as these substances can interfere with how the medication works
2. Until your doctor tells you the ectopic pregnancy has resolved, do not douche, use tampons or engage in vaginal intercourse.
3. Use birth control pills or a barrier method of contraception such as condoms or a diaphragm for two (2) months after the ectopic pregnancy has resolved.
4. Keep all appointments with your doctor because ...
  - A blood pregnancy test may need to be repeated each week until the results are less than 5.
  - A hysterosalpingogram (for which dye is placed in the uterus and tubes) may need to be performed two (2) months after the ectopic pregnancy has resolved to determine if your fallopian tubes are open.
5. Any sudden onset or increased abdominal pain should be reported to your doctor immediately, as there is a 5 percent chance that the tube may rupture after the medication is given.
6. The most common side effects of methotrexate are temporary and include ...
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Sore areas in the mouth
  - Skin rash
  - Loss of hair
  - Sensitivity to sunlight

7. Other possible but less common side effects that your doctor will monitor by using lab studies are ...
  - Bone marrow suppression
  - Low white blood cell count
  - Low platelet count
  - Elevated liver enzymes

### Follow-up appointment:

Physician/Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the instructions given to me concerning non-surgical treatment of ectopic pregnancy:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nurse Signature

Date of Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_