

Pregnancy of Unknown Location (PUL)

When your ultrasound does not show a pregnancy inside of your uterus and your pregnancy test is positive, you have a Pregnancy of Unknown Location (PUL). There are three main causes of PUL that are outlined below. You will need to continue to visit FPA until a formal diagnosis is made, and your care is complete.

Early, Intrauterine Pregnancy (Normal)

In this scenario, your pregnancy test is positive, but your ultrasound shows an empty uterus; this is because your pregnancy was detected very early in its development. Typically, you will be asked to return in 7 days to give the pregnancy time to develop and be visualized on an ultrasound.

Early Pregnancy Loss (“Miscarriage”)

Sometimes, a pregnancy begins to grow then fails to continue its growth. Most individuals experience vaginal bleeding and cramping with the passage of tissue. To confirm an early pregnancy loss, you will likely need to return for further testing and/or imaging to ensure that the miscarriage is complete.

Ectopic Pregnancy (Not Normal)

When a pregnancy implants outside of the uterus, most often in a fallopian tube, this is called an Ectopic Pregnancy. The ectopic pregnancy could also be in an ovary, a c-section scar, or the cervix. Ectopic pregnancies are rare (~2%) but they are dangerous and potentially deadly because they can cause significant internal bleeding.

Symptoms of a ruptured ectopic pregnancy include 1) pelvic pain – one-sided, sudden, and/or severe, 2) shoulder and neck pain 3) nausea and vomiting, 4) faintness or lightheadedness, 5) pallor, and 6) rapid heartbeat. If one or more of the above symptoms occur, call your nearest FPA office immediately or go to your nearest hospital emergency room.

I have read and understand this information.

Patient Signature _____ Date _____

Witness Signature _____ Date _____