

Molar Pregnancy

Gestational trophoblastic disease

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in alternative languages / formats on request.

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

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Document Number: STHK1392
Version: 5
Review date: 01 / 08 / 2024

What is a molar pregnancy?

A molar pregnancy is a rare condition that can develop during pregnancy and is often referred to as Gestational Trophoblastic Disease or Hydatidiform Mole.

Trophoblasts are the cells that form the placenta. In Trophoblastic Disease there is an abnormal overgrowth of part or all of these cells.

As with skin moles, a hydatidiform mole is often harmless but if left untreated, can continue to grow and possibly spread to other parts of the body.

How is a molar pregnancy diagnosed?

A molar pregnancy can also be suspected during an Ultrasound Scan but the diagnosis is made by a specialist doctor, called a pathologist when they look at a placenta under a microscope. This is routinely done following any treatment for a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy.

What treatment will I have?

You will usually have a least one minor operation to enable evacuation of the uterus, this is sometimes known as evacuation of retained products of conception (ERPC) this is to ensure that all the molar pregnancy has been removed from your womb.

How will I be followed up?

Follow up involves measuring the levels of the pregnancy hormone called Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (HCG) in urine samples or occasionally in the blood.

Pre-paid boxes are provided for you to post your samples to the screening centre, including full instructions on how to collect the urine samples. Initially you will be asked to provide a urine sample every week but this might change and you may be asked to provide a blood sample which can be taken at your local hospital.

If your HCG levels fall quickly then you will be followed up for only 6 months otherwise it may be longer.

When can I try for another baby?

You will be advised **not** to become pregnant during your follow up period as it can make it difficult for the screening centre to monitor your progress properly. Pregnancy too soon following a trophoblastic disease may also increase the risk of recurrence or re-activation of the mole.

What happens if I do become pregnant during follow up?

If you become pregnant during your follow up period you will need this to be confirmed by an ultrasound scan. The centre in Sheffield will be informed by your consultant or you can notify them yourself, and your follow up will be suspended. This will resume 6 weeks following delivery.

Am I likely to have another molar pregnancy?

It is rare to have a second molar pregnancy; the vast majority of women go on to have normal pregnancies following a molar pregnancy.

More information

If you have any questions about any information in this leaflet or wish to discuss things further, please contact:

**Buchanan Suite
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am – 5pm
Tuesday, Thursday 9am – 12 noon
(Excluding bank holidays)
0151 290 4356**


Or

Gynaecology Ward (3E) on 0151 430 1522 (24hrs)

Alternatively information and support can be accessed from the below websites:

Sheffield Teaching Hospital – www.molarpregnancy.co.uk

Miscarriage association – www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk



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Warrington Road,
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