

**Timeline of endovaginal ultrasound follow-up to determine pregnancy outcome when initial criteria for pregnancy loss are not met**



Measure mean sac diameter if:

- No cardiac activity is seen in the embryo
- Criteria are not met for EPL

Mean Sac Diameter <12mm

Mean Sac Diameter 12 to <25mm  
or Embryo <7mm<sup>5</sup>

**Non-specific sac-like structure**

Beware:

- Pointy edged fluid
- Echogenic debris
- Location within uterine cavity
- Risk factors ectopic pregnancy
- Adnexal mass is more common in ectopic pregnancy

**Probable IUP**

- Sac smooth
- Anechoic fluid within
- No adnexal mass

Perform ultrasound ≥ 7 days

Is a yolk sac present?

Does the embryo display cardiac activity?

Consider 48-hour quantitative hCG  
See SOGC guidelines PUL

(Especially when initial hCG under 5000 IU/L, gestational sac very small (e.g. under 4 mm), and/or history of heavy bleeding to reduce risk of missed ectopic pregnancy)<sup>3,4</sup>.

NO

YES

Perform Ultrasound  
≥ 14 days<sup>1,2</sup>

Perform Ultrasound  
≥ 11 days

NO

YES

EPL

Viable Pregnancy

Does the embryo display cardiac activity?

NO

YES

EPL<sup>1,2</sup>

Viable Pregnancy

Pregnancy of unknown location (PUL), Intrauterine pregnancy (IUP), early pregnancy loss (EPL)

<sup>1</sup> Follow quantitative bhCG with suspected passage of gestational sac if no histologic (pathology) intrauterine pregnancy diagnosis or no prior ultrasound evidence of definite intrauterine pregnancy (yolk sac or embryo).

<sup>2</sup> Consider waiting one more week if considerable doubling of mean sac diameter, consider patient with sac of 3 mm on initial scan still empty on repeat scan at 14 days -14.1 mm ended as viable.

<sup>3</sup> Po L, Thomas J, Mills K, et al. Guideline No. 414: Management of Pregnancy of Unknown Location and Tubal and Nontubal Ectopic Pregnancies. J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2021;43:614-30 e1. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/33453378>.

<sup>4</sup> Bobdiwala S, Christodoulou E, Farren J, et al. Triaging women with pregnancy of unknown location using two-step protocol including M6 model: clinical implementation study. Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol. 2020;55:105-14. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31385381>.

<sup>5</sup> Preisler J, Kopeika J, Ismail L, et al. Defining safe criteria to diagnose miscarriage: Prospective observational multicentre study. BMJ. 2015;351:h4579. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26400869>  
<https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk:8443/bitstream/10044/1/28320/4/BMJ%20miscarriage%20paper%202015.pdf>.