



METHOTREXATE FOR TREATMENT OF ECTOPIC PREGNANCY

Patient Information

After receiving the methotrexate injection, it will be necessary to have additional blood work. We will monitor the levels of HCG, the pregnancy hormone, weekly until it is negative. This takes varying lengths of time. The staff will contact you with further instructions when the lab work has been received. Please call the office for results if you have not heard from us within 48 hours.

- Many patients experience abdominal cramping in the days after their methotrexate injection. It is important to remember that even though you received the injection, a tubal ectopic can rupture and surgery may be required. Please contact the clinic staff immediately if you develop intense or significantly increased abdominal pain.
- You may have vaginal bleeding. Call the office if the bleeding is heavier than a period.
- Call the office if you experience diarrhea: more than three watery stools in 24 hours.
- The side effects of this drug are minimal. You may have some fatigue but may resume normal activities including work, if you feel up to it.
- **Do not drink alcohol** for two weeks after your methotrexate injection. Alcohol can cause liver damage in patients who receive this drug. **Do not take aspirin or aspirin-like products such as Motrin, Advil, Aleve, or Ibuprofen** for three weeks after the methotrexate injection.
- **You may use Tylenol (acetaminophen).**
- **Do not take multivitamins, prenatal vitamins or folic acid supplements** after methotrexate injection until your pregnancy test is negative. You may then resume taking these vitamins.
- **Please avoid excess sun exposure, sunlamps and tanning salons** for four weeks following the methotrexate injection because your skin may be more sensitive than usual and burn.
- Do not have sexual intercourse until you are informed that your pregnancy test is negative.
- Use barrier contraception (condoms or diaphragm) for the next month.
- Return for the blood work on the following days:
Day 0 = day of injection _____
Day 3 after the injection _____
Day 7 after the injection _____