

3.06 Women's Health - Pain and bleeding in early pregnancy

Laura is 22 years old. She is approximately 8 weeks pregnant. She has come to see you because of low abdominal pain and vaginal bleeding for the past 2 days.

Provide: I am concerned about the possibility of an ectopic pregnancy.

Elicit: Have you heard of this?

Laura: No what is that? Is it like a miscarriage?

Provide: It's where the fertilised egg settles in the wrong place. Often in the fallopian tube. Where it can cause pain and bleeding. Left untreated this is dangerous because if the tube bursts you can bleed a lot and it can threaten your life. Sadly if the pregnancy is in the wrong place you would need treatment and the pregnancy cannot continue.

Elicit: I'm going to send you into hospital straight away for tests - is that ok?

Laura: Yes that's fine.