



Diagnosing Molar Pregnancy - A Quick Guide

Contents

This is a brief summary of the information on 'Diagnosing molar pregnancy' from CancerHelp UK. You will find more detailed information on the website.

In this information there are sections on

- Tests for molar pregnancy
- Questions for your doctor

Tests for molar pregnancy

Blood and urine tests

In pregnancy your placenta produces a hormone called human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG). In a molar pregnancy hCG levels are higher than normal. Measuring the hCG in your blood and urine can help diagnose a molar pregnancy. It also plays an important part in monitoring your treatment for molar pregnancy.

Ultrasound scan

An ultrasound scan can diagnose many women with a molar pregnancy.

Surgery to remove the molar pregnancy (D and C)

If an ultrasound scan shows that you have a molar pregnancy, you will probably need to

have an operation to remove the abnormal tissue from your womb. This operation is known as a dilatation and curettage or 'D and C'. A diagnosis of a molar pregnancy is confirmed by looking at tissue from your womb under a microscope.

Checking your placenta

It is routine after the birth of a baby to look at the placenta carefully to check it is healthy. A doctor also routinely examines the tissue under a microscope if you've had a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy.

If you need further tests

Most women will not need further tests, but your doctor might want you to have more tests to see if there is any spread of the abnormal cells to other parts of your body.

What to ask your doctor about molar pregnancy tests

- What tests are you going to do?
- What are they looking for?
- Will those tests show if it is cancer?
- Are any of the tests painful?
- Can I have the tests as an outpatient?
- How long will the tests take?
- Should I take anyone with me for the tests?



- Who can I contact if I have any more questions about the tests?
- When will I get the results?
- Who will give me the results of the tests?
- How will you give me the results – by letter, phone or in person?
- Will the results show what treatment I will need?
- Is there a support group for people with this type of tumour?

Notes

More information

For more information about gestational trophoblastic tumours, visit our website <http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org>

You will find a wide range of detailed, up to date information for people affected by cancer, including a clinical trials database that you can search for cancer trials in the UK. You can view or print the information in a larger size if you need to.

For answers to your questions about cancer call our Cancer Information Nurses on **0808 800 4040** 9am till 5pm Monday to Friday

Adapted from Cancer Research UK's Patient Information Website CancerHelp UK in February 2011. CancerHelp UK is not designed to provide medical advice or professional services and is intended to be for educational use only. The information provided through CancerHelp UK and our nurse team is not a substitute for professional care and should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. If you have, or suspect you may have, a health problem you should consult your doctor. © Cancer Research UK 2011. Cancer Research UK is a registered charity In England and Wales (1089464) and in Scotland (SC041666).