

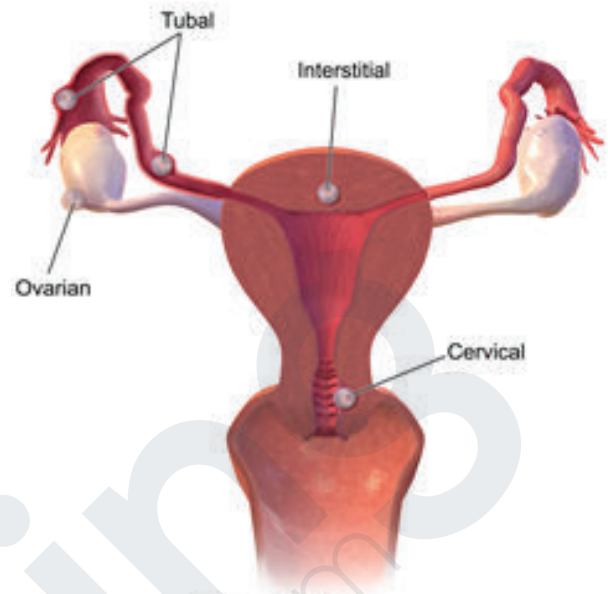
ECTOPIC PREGNANCY PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

An ectopic pregnancy is when the fertilized egg implants and begins to grow in an area other than the uterus. This most often occurs in the fallopian tube, but can be in other areas as well such as the cervix, ovary or abdominal cavity. An embryo cannot grow and survive outside the uterus, and parts like the fallopian tubes are unable to support such a pregnancy and must be treated immediately.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Vaginal bleeding or spotting
- Tachycardia, tachypnea, hypotension
- Lower abdominal pain
- Weakness, dizziness
- Nausea
- Amenorrhea



Ectopic Pregnancy

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DIAGNOSTICS

- Ultrasound
- Blood or Urine Pregnancy Test

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Assess and manage bleeding
- Assess for optimal perfusion
- Promote comfort

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Surgical removal
- Blood transfusions as needed
- Pain management
- Provide emotional support and resources for grief

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Analgesics
- Methotrexate