

## **Surgical management of ectopic pregnancy in a district general hospital.**

Azizia M, Phadnis S, Irvine LM.

### **Source**

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Watford General Hospital, Watford, UK.

### **Abstract**

The mainstay of management of ectopic pregnancies is laparoscopic surgery. Other treatment options include open laparotomy, methotrexate or expectant approach. Recently the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) revised its guidelines regarding management of suspected ectopic pregnancies. We undertook a retrospective study looking at management of ectopic pregnancies over a defined 12-month period (1 October 2003 - 30 September 2004) in a district general hospital to the north of London and compared this with the recommended RCOG guidelines 2004. Cases of ectopic pregnancy were identified from the theatre, ward log, and cross-referenced with histopathological reports. The case notes of these women were reviewed and data extracted according to a drawn-up questionnaire. A total of 64 cases met the diagnostic criteria and were included in the study. Nine of the 64 cases were haemodynamically unstable and seven underwent rapid laparotomy. All of the stable 55 cases underwent laparoscopy, which was converted to open laparotomy in 13 cases (23.6%). Three patients were treated with methotrexate all of whom had been previously managed surgically. The majority of cases of ectopic pregnancy were managed according to the RCOG recommendations. Further changes in practice will be required to incorporate expectant and primary medical management as proposed by the recent guidelines (RCOG 2004). This study reveals progress achieved in management of ectopic pregnancies in UK with the introduction of RCOG guidelines 1999.