

Miscarriage

Miscarriage of pregnancy usually occurs when a pregnancy is not developing normally. This is a common problem since one out of five pregnancies ends in miscarriage. It is very unlikely that you or your partner did anything to cause this, although cigarette smoking and drug abuse can increase the risk. Having a miscarriage does not change your chances of having a normal pregnancy in the future.

A pregnancy cannot be saved if there is continual, heavy vaginal bleeding or cramping, or if you pass any pregnancy tissue. Bleeding and cramping will usually continue until all the tissue has been removed from the womb. Often the uterus does not clean itself out completely and a Dilation & Curettage (D&C) procedure is needed to loosen or remove the remaining tissue from the uterus. If you are Rh negative and you have not been previously sensitized you should receive Rh immune globulin injection.

If you have a miscarriage you should rest in bed for the next 2-3 days. Avoid tub baths or putting any thing in your vagina, including tampons or douching. Do not have sex until your health care provider clears you. Call your health care provider or go to the emergency room at once if you have any of the following symptoms:

Persistent heavy vaginal bleeding or a foul-smelling vaginal discharge.

Continued abdominal or pelvic pain.

Fever over 100F (38C).

Severe weakness or fainting, or repeated vomiting.