

# Interstitial Ectopic Pregnancy: A Diagnostic Dilemma

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**Image 1:** Coronal MRI showing left interstitial ectopic with bulging to the left of the fundus

## Background

Interstitial ectopic pregnancy is a rare form of ectopic pregnancy accounting for 1% of all ectopic pregnancies. It has a mortality rate 6-7x higher than tubal ectopic pregnancy due to delayed diagnosis and implanting in the highly vascularised myometrium in the interstitium<sup>1</sup>.

## Case

A 32-year-old primiparous woman was initially referred to our institution with concern for a left cornual ectopic pregnancy 3 weeks following intrauterine insemination. She underwent laparoscopy for removal of the ectopic however, findings at laparoscopy were of an eccentrically located intrauterine pregnancy and normal pelvic anatomy. She was counselled about the high-risk nature of the pregnancy and booked for follow up with the high-risk pregnancy unit. She returned for follow up ultrasound at 11 weeks' gestation. Ultrasound showed a live interstitial ectopic pregnancy bulging out from the left fundal cornu of the uterus measuring 56x48mm. Given the previous uncertainty

surrounding the location of the pregnancy she underwent an MRI. This confirmed the diagnosis with no connection between the gestational sac and the endometrium. After counselling she received intra-sac potassium chloride and methotrexate.

## Discussion

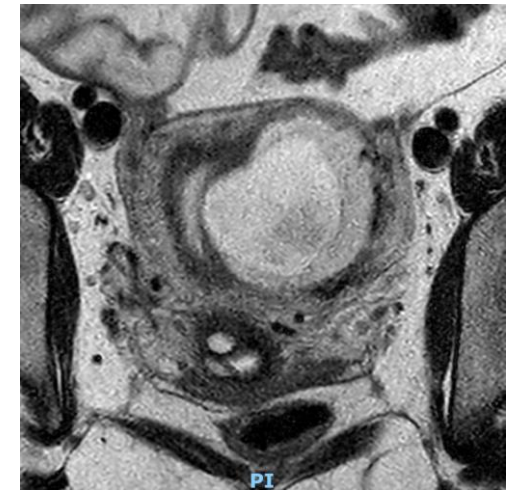
Interstitial ectopic pregnancy is a difficult diagnostic dilemma. Implanting in the proximal intramural portion of the tube, it differs from a cornual ectopic which implants in the upper, lateral uterine cavity. Interstitial ectopic pregnancy can be complicated by myometrial rupture and haemorrhage. Early radiographic diagnosis is important to allow consideration of conservative management.

## Follow up

Follow up with weekly ultrasound was arranged to ensure resolution and beta-HCGs were tracked until negative.



**Image 2:** Ultrasound image of left interstitial pregnancy bulging out from left fundal cornu of uterus.



**Image 3:** MRI image showing no connection between gestational sac and endometrium