

ROBINSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
WOMEN'S AND FAMILY HEALTH

RAVENNA, OHIO

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Subject: Methotrexate for Ectopic Pregnancy

Effective Date: 6/13 Revised 2/24/14

Departments: Women's and Family Health and Emergency Department

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**Policy**

Methotrexate is administered to women with known ectopic pregnancy. The objective is to maintain the integrity of the fallopian tube for future pregnancies. The medication may be ordered by an obstetrician or emergency department physician.

The common dosage of Methotrexate used in the treatment of ectopic pregnancies is 50mg/m<sup>2</sup> administered intramuscularly in a single dose regimen.

Methotrexate is ordered from pharmacy via SCM. Pharmacy will prepare methotrexate syringe. If dose is greater than 2ML, dose will be divided into multiple syringes. The medication and a spill kit will be delivered by Pharmacy personnel using a hard plastic closed container. The spill kit (unless used) will be returned to Pharmacy once injection has been administered and syringe disposed of in sharps container.

**The medication is administered by a physician.**

**Procedure**

If the patient presents to the Emergency Department, she will be assessed by the Emergency room staff with necessary consultation of obstetrics. If it is determined that the patient will have methotrexate administration for ectopic pregnancy treatment, patient may receive it by the ED physician or obstetrician in the ED, or she may be transferred to the obstetrics triage for administration by an obstetrician.

Typical labwork ordered unless done recently in ambulatory care:

- Baseline CBC with differential
- Liver panel and
- Renal panel,
- Antepartum Rhogam studies with an order to give Rhogam if eligible (if not already done),

Provider notes typically include unless documented recently in ambulatory care:

- Quantitative beta HCG results
- Ultrasound results
- Baseline lab information including Rhogam studies if done in the past

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**Nursing:**

- If patient concurs leave a face sheet for Perinatal Loss Committee to do follow-up
- Order nitrile gloves and chemotherapy sharps container from distribution.
- Assure order is entered for the medication
- Assess whether the patient is having any vaginal bleeding, abdominal pain, or has any question regarding the treatment. If so, call the attending physician for instruction.
- Obtain baseline vital signs.
- Obtain signed consent for treatment form

Arrange for a physician to administer medication (Physician **must wear nitrile gloves** when administering medication and the disposal of the syringe is to be in the sharps container)

**Instructions:**

Provide patient with follow up appointment/blood work instructions as provided by attending physician and instruct patient on the following:

- No sexual activity until your attending physician approves.
- Report unusual pain in lower abdominal quadrants to your attending physician.
- Report excessive (more than a period) vaginal bleeding to attending physician.
- Report any signs of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mouth sores, decreased urine output, chills, fever, and excessive tiredness to your attending physician.
- You may expect a menstrual period but notify your attending physician if it occurs.
- Document post-treatment assessment and vital signs.
- Discharge patient after treatment is complete and ordered by physician.

**References**

Gungorduk, K. et al. (2011). Comparison of single-dose and two-dose methotrexate protocols for the treatment of unruptured ectopic pregnancy. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 31(4) 330-334.

Ohio Revised Code

APPROVED:

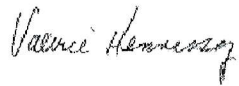


6/11/13

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Alan Rosenwasser MD  
OBGYN Section Chair Signature

APPROVED:



6/11/13

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Val Hennessy  
Director Women's & Family Health

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Date