



Surgical Management of a Miscarriage

Once the Consultant Gynaecologist has confirmed that sadly your pregnancy is no longer on going, they will discuss with you and your partner the options that are available. This will enable you to make an informed choice of how you wish to proceed. We understand this may be a very distressing time for you and we are sorry for your loss.

If your miscarriage is incomplete or if you have had a missed miscarriage one of the options is to undergo surgical treatment. However if you are bleeding very heavily and you are unwell, this may necessitate the Consultant Gynaecologist advising you that a surgical procedure is carried out urgently, as an emergency.

If the procedure is not deemed to be an emergency and your condition is stable your name will be placed on the next available gynaecological theatre list, which is every Wednesday. It may not necessarily be the same Consultant you see as an outpatient who will perform your surgery. It will be done by the Consultant Gynaecologist who is on duty in theatre on the day.

This surgical management is carried out in theatre and is performed under a general anaesthetic. You will be admitted to the day surgery unit prior to your operation. The day surgery unit is situated on the 4th floor of St Bernard's hospital.

Surgical management of miscarriage is successful in 95 out of 100 women (95%).

The surgical procedure is performed by opening up the cervix and the pregnancy tissue is removed using a suction device. You may be given a vaginal pessary before the surgery is performed to soften the cervix in order to make the operation easier. The operation is called an evacuation of the uterus. The Consultant will explain the surgical procedure to you and you will be required to give written consent before the surgery can be carried out. If you lose a significant amount of blood the Consultant may wish to replace this by giving you a blood transfusion. However this will only be necessary if they feel that the amount of blood you lose is likely to cause you harm.

The intended benefits of surgical management are that some women find it helpful to get it 'over and done with' and they can plan around this. (Miscarriage Association 2010)

The operation can be carried out as a day case and provided you are, fit and well following the procedure you may be able go home following your surgery.

The operation is safe but there are some small risks of complications.

These include; the procedure may need to be repeated (6%), a uterine perforation (1%), cervical tears and intra- abdominal trauma (0.1%) and anaesthetic complications.

The infection risk is the same if you choose the surgical or medical management (2-3%)

You will be asked to fast from midnight before you have your surgery and to attend the day surgery unit at 8am the following morning for admission.

If your blood group is Rhesus negative, you will require to be given a dose of Anti-D immunoglobulin following the procedure.

The Consultant Gynaecologist may send tissue that is removed at the time of surgery to the laboratory for example if they suspect that the pregnancy may have been a molar pregnancy. Scans can normally detect if the pregnancy is outside the uterus known as an ectopic pregnancy and if this were the case, a laparoscopic procedure would be undertaken by the Consultant Gynaecologist.

All pregnancy remains are disposed of sensitively, in accordance with the parameters set out in the UK Human Tissue Authority Guidelines. The Consultant will discuss with you your choices on how you wish to proceed with this.

You may wish to make your own arrangements and there are several funeral directors in Gibraltar who will be able to assist you, if you decide that you do not wish the GHA to carry out this function for you.

Funeral Services Gibraltar Ltd 200 50600 M 58796000, Codali funeral Services 20050600, De Haro Funeral Directors LTD 20050600. Codali and De Haro come under Funeral services Gibraltar.

Green Valley Funeral Services Ltd 20076112 M 58009621

As part of the early pregnancy loss service the GHA has a dedicated book of remembrance for all early pregnancy losses before 20 weeks. You will be able if you wish to acknowledge your loss in this special book of remembrance

Following your loss the Consultant gynaecologist will give you a review appointment to be seen in their clinic. decide if you will require a repeat scan or urine specimen to test for the pregnancy hormone. You will also be able to discuss any issues or concerns about how you feel and your options for the future at this consultation.

The clinic is situated on the first floor of St Bernard's hospital.

This leaflet is to be read in conjunction with the GHA
Gibraltar Health Authority
General Information Leaflet for Women and their Partners
Management of Early Pregnancy Problems and Miscarriage
And
The GHA Day Surgery Unit Discharge Advice Leaflet
ERPC

St Bernard's Hospital EPU telephone numbers: 200 72266 ext. 2124 ext.
2125