

Management of Ectopic Pregnancy: Are we waiting too long?

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BACKGROUND: New guidelines (Doubilet) for the diagnosis of non-viable early pregnancies were published in October 2013.

PURPOSE: To determine if changes in the guidelines for identifying non-viable early pregnancies affected treatment outcomes.

METHODS: Patients with an ectopic pregnancy or pregnancy of unknown location presenting between January 2011 and October 2015 were identified. Outcomes before and after October 2013 were analyzed.

RESULTS: There was no difference in the number of patients diagnosed with ectopic pregnancy pre or post 10/2013. The average time from presentation to intervention was 3.4 days pre 10/2013 in comparison to 6.6 days post 10/2013 ($p=0.02$). There was no difference in the number of patients treated with surgery or methotrexate in each time period.

CONCLUSIONS: There is a significant increase in time from initial presentation to primary intervention on ectopic pregnancies in the later period, although no change in rates of methotrexate use or surgical management were identified.