

## Patient Information

### Treatment with methotrexate injections following diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy

מידע למטופלת טיפול בזריקות – METHOTREXATE לאחר אבחנה של הריון חוץ רחמי

#### Dear patient

Your physician has recently recommended to terminate your ectopic pregnancy with methotrexate injections.

This leaflet provides information designed to assist you with the treatment and follow up which you are about to undergo shortly.

#### Background -

The injection will be given to you by the clinic nurse, who will also instruct you regarding the follow up required.

Methotrexate – is a medication of the chemotherapy drug class. This medication may cause various side effects such as: elevation of liver enzymes, rash, hair loss, stomatitis, nausea, diarrhea and bone marrow suppression.

For the treatment of ectopic pregnancy, a single low dose injection is administered; therefore the side effects of the injection are usually mild and transient with no need for treatment. The most common side effect is abdominal pain due to tubal abortion or formation of blood clots (hematomas) in the area.

#### Treatment (at Shaare Zedek)

Administration of a single dose methotrexate injection and then follow up by blood tests on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> days following the injection (injection day = day 0). If no decrease of at least 15% in the BHCG level is observed between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> days, administration of an additional injection will be considered.

If you have an Rh negative blood type, you will also receive an anti-D vaccine from the nurse.

#### Follow up –

If the BHCG level has sufficiently decreased following the injection, further follow up will be conducted by testing the BHCG level once a week. The clinic follow up will be completed when BHCG levels decrease to less than 100. Then you will continue with follow up in the HMO until BHCG levels decrease to less than 10.

The estimated time for pregnancy termination following the injection is 3-7 weeks.

During the follow up, you are requested to rest as much as possible.

**At any clinic visit, you will receive personal follow up instructions from your physician** regarding the next follow up date and behavior at home.

You should schedule an appointment for follow up at the follow up clinic (tel. 6555999).

**Please ensure arriving at the time scheduled for you to enable regular follow up convenient for you and the other clinic patients.**

#### For your attention!

**In the following cases you must return to the gynecology ER of Shaare Zedek as soon as possible without waiting for your scheduled follow up visit:**

- Intense abdominal pain
- Major vaginal bleeding
- Fever

- **Weakness or sensation of fainting**

- You must use contraceptives for 3 months of the last injection you receive.
- You may not breastfeed for a certain period of time: each case is examined individually. Call one of the Israeli poison control centers for guidelines (Poison control center in Haifa: 04-8541900)
- You must use a separate toilet for 72 hours of receiving the injection. Alternatively, you should flush the toilet twice and make sure that it is clean.

You are welcome to call for any question  
on Sunday – Thursday during 8:00 – 15:00

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