

2. Surgical Management

A surgical procedure called a Dilatation and Curettage (D&C) may be offered to you. Under anesthetic, the surgeon gently dilates the cervix and suction is used to clear any tissue from your uterus. Then a curette (a small, blunt spoon-like instrument) is inserted to ensure all remaining tissue is removed.

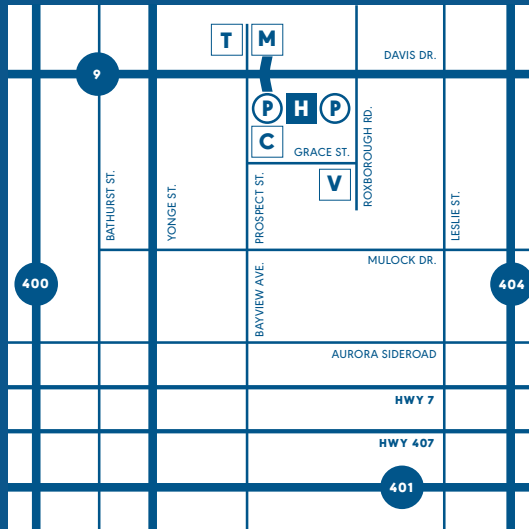
If required, the D&C will be booked through the Clinic after your assessment. On the day of your procedure, you will be advised to come to the Day Surgery area on Level 2, East Building. After the procedure, you will go to the Recovery Room for a short period of time and you will be discharged as soon as you feel well enough. Please ensure that you have someone to drive you home.

3. Medical Management

Another option for treatment is a medication called Misoprostol that is inserted into your vagina. The medication will cause your uterus to contract, resulting in its contents being expelled. Usually this occurs within 12-18 hours after first inserting the medication.

You will require a follow-up appt. in 7-10 days to ensure that all of the tissue has passed.

How To Find Us



V Southlake Village,
640 Grace Street

M Medical Arts Building,
581 Davis Drive

Southlake Health Foundation,
581 Davis Drive

H Southlake Health

P Bridge over Davis Drive - accessible from P3 of the
Parking Garage and Level 3 of the Medical Arts Building.

C Stronach Regional
Cancer Centre

T The Tannery Mall,
465 Davis Drive

P Parking

For more information contact:

**Early Pregnancy Loss
Maternal Child Program
Southlake Health**

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Newmarket, ON L3Y 2P9

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 **SouthlakeHealth**
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Early Pregnancy Loss:

Making An Informed Choice



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 **SouthlakeHealth**

You are receiving this information because your doctor has determined that you are experiencing an early pregnancy loss, which is the loss of a baby in the first trimester of pregnancy. Miscarriage or early pregnancy loss occurs in about 25% of all pregnancies. Approximately one in four women will have a pregnancy loss sometime in their lives.

Most pregnancy losses occur before 12 weeks of pregnancy. The main cause of pregnancy loss is usually a chromosomal abnormality; however, infections or hormonal deficiencies may also be responsible.

Once diagnosed with a pregnancy loss, you are likely filled with many emotions and making a decision may seem difficult. The Early Pregnancy Loss Clinic staff are happy to assist you to understand your options and to help you make the best decision for you and your family.

Types of Pregnancy Loss

Complete Miscarriage

This occurs when the fetus and all components of placental tissue have been expelled from the uterus after bleeding and uterine cramping. This will be confirmed by ultrasound and blood work which ensures your uterus is empty. Usually you will not require any further medical or surgical intervention.

Incomplete Miscarriage

This occurs when the fetus and/or placental tissue remain in the uterus despite having bleeding and cramping. An ultrasound will show remaining tissue in the uterus. Medical or surgical management may be required.

Missed Miscarriage

This occurs when the fetus has died before 20 weeks of pregnancy but has not been expelled. Sometimes this is only found during a routine ultrasound check, a prenatal visit, or if you have had spotting or cramping during the pregnancy. This will usually require some surgical or medical management.

Blighted Ovum

This occurs when the pregnancy begins but the fetus does not develop. The amniotic sac may grow, however the fetus does not. This may require medical or surgical management.

What Happens After I Have an Early Pregnancy Loss?

If you have been diagnosed with an incomplete, missed miscarriage, or blighted ovum, you need to be seen by the Obstetrical Team to discuss the options available to you.

1. Expectant Management

Many women prefer to wait to see if the pregnancy will pass naturally. If you choose to wait, you can expect bleeding and cramping to occur similar to what is felt during a heavy menstrual period. It may often take days or weeks for all tissue to pass. Occasionally, bleeding and pain can become quite severe. If this occurs, you will need to go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Should you choose this option, a follow-up appointment at the clinic is required to ensure that all tissue has passed.