

# Oral Methotrexate in the Management of Ectopic Pregnancy: A 2-year Experience in Hospital Shah Alam

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To evaluate the success rate of oral methotrexate in treating ectopic pregnancy in Hospital Shah Alam in the last two years. **Methodology:** This is a prospective observational study on patients with ectopic pregnancy presented to Hospital Shah Alam in the last two years. 30 patients who fulfilled the criteria for medical management and agreeable for frequent and long term outpatient follow up were recruited. All patients received oral methotrexate with the dose of 60 mg given in 3 divided doses every 2 hours using the standard tablet of 2.5 mg. Follow up was done at day 4, day 7 and until bHCG level achieved a level of less than 20 iu/litre. **Results:** 24 patients were successfully treated with oral methotrexate (80%). Five patients needed laparoscopic surgery due to leaking or ruptured tubal pregnancy. One patient had laparotomy and wedge resection for right cornual pregnancy. Of the 24 patients treated medically, three needed a second dose of Methotrexate due to rising HCG level and only one of them failed the medical treatment. The side effects of oral methotrexate were well tolerated by all patients. Predictors for successful medical treatment are the level of HCG < 4000 iu/litre, size of mass < 4cm, no abdominal pain during early presentation and decrease of HCG level in between day 4 to day 7 after oral methotrexate. **Conclusion:** The success rate of oral methotrexate is comparable with parenteral methotrexate. Oral methotrexate is a good option for clinical settings which has no specialised equipment to handle cytotoxic drugs.