

Ectopic Pregnancy

Prelims - Current events of national and international importance, General Science

Why in News?

Recently, a case in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, left doctors stunned when an MRI scan conducted after a pregnant woman reported revealed that the fetus was developing in her liver.

- An ectopic pregnancy occurs when the fertilised egg implants outside of the uterus, most often in the fallopian tube (connect the ovaries to the uterus).
- If the fertilized egg implants in the fallopian tube it is called **Tubal pregnancy**.
- Sometimes, the fertilised egg may also attach to the ovary, abdominal cavity, or cervix in ectopic pregnancy.
- These sorts of pregnancies **cannot proceed normally** and it cannot support baby growth.

All tubal pregnancies are ectopic, but not all ectopic pregnancies are tubal.

- **Occurrence** - The Movement of the fertilised egg is blocked.
- This could occur due to inflammation or damage of the fallopian tubes due to prior surgeries or infections, or an irregularly-shaped fallopian tube.
- **Symptoms** - It may be similar to those in early pregnancy, such as a missed period, nausea and tenderness of the breasts.
- It includes vaginal bleeding, pain in the lower abdomen, as well as pelvic and back pain, dizziness, pain in the shoulder, discomfort during bowel movements, and low blood pressure.
- The study found that amenorrhea (absence of menstruation) was the most common symptom seen in the cases it analysed.
- On ultrasound, the most common finding was tubo-ovarian mass.

- In the majority of patients studied, the ampullary region in the fallopian tube was the site of the ectopic pregnancy.
- **Risk factors** - Prior ectopic pregnancy, having had certain sexually transmitted infections.
 - Surgery of fallopian tubes
 - A history of smoking,
 - Infertility and fertility treatments,
 - Endometriosis, and having an intrauterine device in place at the time of conception.
 - Advanced age over 35 is also a risk factor.
- **Threat** - This sort of pregnancy cannot proceed normally. It could cause severe internal bleeding, and life-threatening.
- **Prevalence** - The incidence of *ectopic pregnancies in India* has been reported in the range of **0.91 - 2.3%**.
- **Treatment** - It is usually treated with medication or surgery. A common medication used is *Methotrexate*, which stops the fertilised egg from growing and helps dissolve existing cells.
- *Laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery* is usually performed to removing the egg from the fallopian tube, or removing both the egg and the tube.

Ectopic Pregnancy Awareness Day is observed on August 1 to raise awareness about the risks, symptoms, and importance of early detection.

Reference

[The Hindu| Ectopic Pregnancy Causes](#)

