

Intact ovarian pregnancy

A 28-year-old woman presented to the outpatient clinic at 38 days gestation after obtaining a positive urine pregnancy test at home. The patient was asymptomatic, with no symptoms of abdominal pain or vaginal bleeding. The serum beta-human chorionic gonadotropin (β -hCG) level was 14 368 U/litre (reference range <5 U/litre). A transvaginal ultrasound scan revealed an empty uterus and a complex mass in the right adnexa. A diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy was suspected, so a laparoscopic exploration was performed. There was no fresh blood in the pouch of Douglas, but an ovarian pregnancy was noted. The findings were consistent with all four Spiegelberg (1878) diagnostic criteria for an ovarian pregnancy (Figures 1a–e). A wedge resection of the ovarian lesion was performed. Postoperative recovery was uneventful. The β -hCG level decreased to 1.7 U/litre 32 days after surgery.

An ovarian pregnancy is rare, accounting for 3% of all ectopic pregnancies. The incidence after natural conception ranges from 1/2000–60 000 pregnancies (Zhu et al, 2014). This case illustrates the use of the Spiegelberg diagnostic criteria to identify ovarian pregnancies.

Author details

¹Department of Obstetrics, Hangzhou Women's Hospital, Hangzhou, China

²Centre of Reproductive Medicine, Hangzhou Women's Hospital, Hangzhou, China

³Department of Pathology, Hangzhou Women's Hospital, Hangzhou, China

References

Spiegelberg O. Casuistry in ovarian pregnancy. *Arch Gynecol Surv.* 1878;13:73–79. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01991416>

Zhu Q, Li C, Zhao W-H et al. Risk factors and clinical features of ovarian pregnancy: a case-control study. *BMJ Open.* 2014;4(12):e006447. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2014-006447>

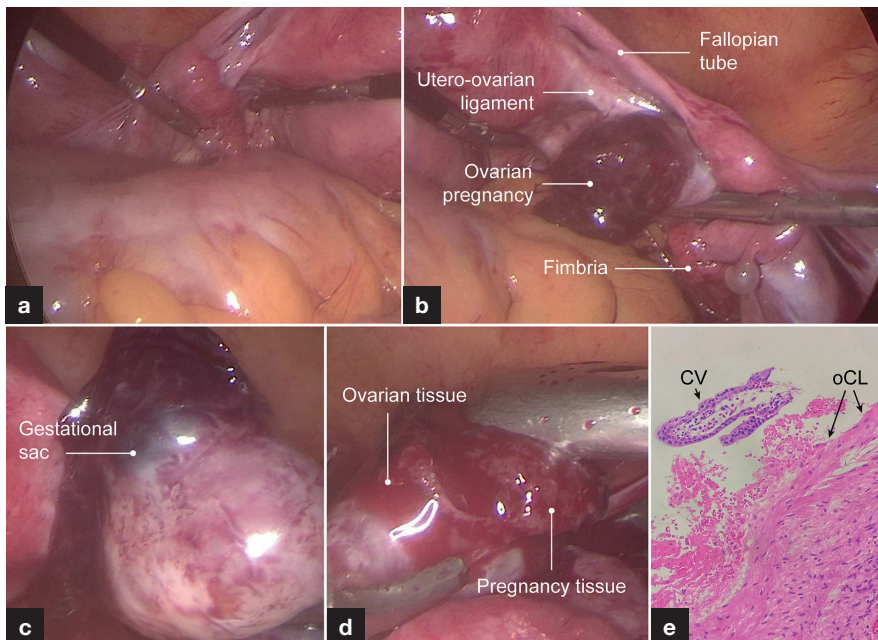


Figure 1. An intact ovarian pregnancy consistent with the Spiegelberg diagnostic criteria. a and b. The fallopian tubes and fimbriae were intact and separated from the ovaries. b. The ovary with the lesion was attached to the uterus by the utero-ovarian ligament. c. The gestational sac was visualised on the medial surface of the right ovary. d. A wedge resection of the ovary was performed. The ovarian tissue was attached to the conceptus based on gross observation. e. The pathological specimen confirmed chorionic villi (CV) within the ovarian corpus luteum (oCL) (haematoxylin and eosin stain, 200 \times magnification).

Jing He¹

Wenchao Sun²

Hao Chen³

Xiaoyang Fei²

Author details can be found at the end of this article

Correspondence to:

Wenchao Sun;
attendingsun@sina.com

How to cite this article:

He J, Sun W, Chen H, Fei X. Intact ovarian pregnancy. *Br J Hosp Med.* 2022. <https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2021.0225>