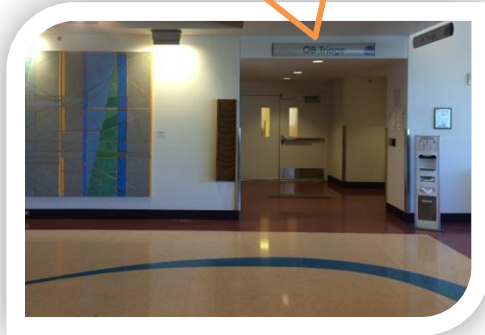


Questions or Concerns?

Call your clinic _____
(Write your clinic's phone number)

For Emergencies

Call OB Triage (272-2460)



Vaginal Bleeding During Pregnancy

Warning Signs and Causes



Vaginal bleeding is common in all stages of pregnancy. Some causes of vaginal bleeding are serious and some are not.

At each of your appointments, tell your health care provider about any vaginal bleeding that you have. Be prepared to tell your provider—

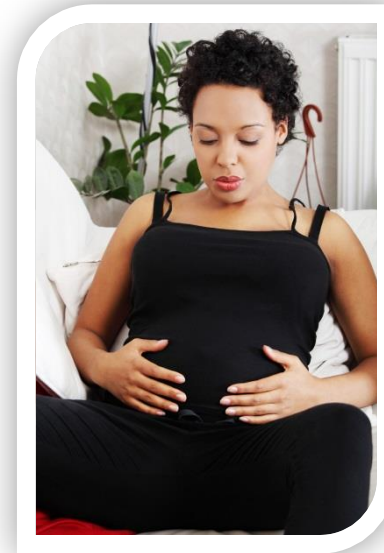
- How much blood came out of your vagina
- What it looked like
- Whether any clots or tissue came out



1

During your **2nd and 3rd trimesters (weeks 13-40)**, these are some common causes—

- **Placental abruption:** This happens when the placenta detaches from the wall of the uterus before or during labor. This may cause vaginal bleeding or pain, even if there's not much bleeding.
- **Preterm (early) labor**
- **Labor**



6

What Causes Vaginal Bleeding?

During your **1st trimester (weeks 1-12)**, these are some common causes—

- **Having sex:** It is common to bleed when you have sex.
- **Implantation of the pregnancy:** It is common to bleed when the fertilized egg attaches to your uterus at the beginning of your pregnancy. This is called “implantation.”
- ⚠ **Infection**
- ⚠ **Ectopic pregnancy:** This is when the pregnancy forms where it’s not supposed to. It forms outside of the uterus, usually in the fallopian tube.
- ⚠ **Miscarriage (loss of pregnancy):** Signs of a miscarriage are light or heavy vaginal bleeding.

1st Trimester Warning Signs (Weeks 1-12)

Call your health care provider right away or go to OB Triage if—

- ⚠ You have moderate to heavy vaginal bleeding that soaks 1 pad per hour for 2 hours
- ⚠ You notice that tissue came out of your vagina
- ⚠ You have any amount of vaginal bleeding with abdominal (stomach) pain, cramps, fever, or chills

Call your health care provider within 24 hours if—

- ⚠ You have any amount of vaginal bleeding that lasts longer than one day

Tell your health care provider at your next visit if—

- You have spotting or light vaginal bleeding that goes away within one day

2nd Trimester Warning Signs (Weeks 13-27)

Call your health care provider right away or go to OB Triage if—

- ⚠ You have any amount of vaginal bleeding that lasts longer than one day
- ⚠ Your vaginal bleeding fills a pad in one hour
- ⚠ You have any amount of vaginal bleeding with abdominal (stomach) pain, cramps, fever, chills, or contractions
- ⚠ You've been diagnosed with placenta previa or vasa previa (meaning that the placenta or cord are near your cervix) and you have any amount of bleeding

Tell your health care provider at your next visit if—

- You have light vaginal bleeding that goes away within a few hours

3rd Trimester Warning Signs (Weeks 28-40)

Call your health care provider right away or go to OB Triage if—

- ⚠ You have any amount of vaginal bleeding before week 37 of your pregnancy
- ⚠ You have vaginal bleeding and abdominal (stomach) pain

Remember!

In the final weeks of pregnancy, vaginal discharge that is pink or bloody is a **normal** sign that labor will start soon.