

Abstract

Bleeding during pregnancy is common, especially during the first trimester, and usually it's no cause for alarm. But because bleeding can sometimes be a sign of something serious, it's important to know the possible causes, and get checked out by your doctor to make sure you and your baby are healthy. Vaginal bleeding occurs in 15% to 25% of early pregnancies. While 50% of women who have vaginal bleeding in the first trimester of pregnancy will continue to have a viable pregnancy, the event creates significant anxiety for the woman and can be managed in a multitude of ways. The 3 main differential diagnoses associated with vaginal bleeding are spontaneous abortion, ectopic pregnancy, and gestational trophoblastic disease. The source is virtually always maternal, rather than fetal. Bleeding may result from disruption of blood vessels in the decidua (ie, pregnancy endometrium) or from discrete cervical or vaginal lesions.