

Definitions and Ultrasound Findings in Subcategories of Early Pregnancy Loss (EPL)

| Preferred Term(s) Highlighted | ICD-10 | Definition | Cervical Canal? | Tissue Passed? | Ultrasound Characteristics |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened miscarriage Threatened (spontaneous) abortion | O20.0 | Bleeding before 20 weeks' gestation. Pregnancy viable at time of presentation and may or may not miscarry | Closed | No | Findings appropriate for stage of pregnancy; subchorionic hemorrhage may be present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inevitable EPL Inevitable miscarriage Inevitable (spontaneous) abortion | O03.4 | Cervix has dilated but passage of products has not occurred, and miscarriage is unavoidable; usually with vaginal bleeding | Open | No | Products of conception visible; fetal cardiac activity may or may not be present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incomplete EPL Incomplete miscarriage Incomplete (spontaneous) abortion | O03.4 | Some, but not all, of the products of conception have passed | Open | Yes | Heterogeneous and/or echogenic material along endometrial stripe or in cervical canal Heterogenous tissues (with or without a gestational sac) distorting the endometrial midline |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete EPL Complete miscarriage Complete (spontaneous) abortion | O03.9 | All products of conception have passed | Closed | Yes | Empty uterus; endometrial lining may be thickened |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed EPL Embryonic or fetal demise Missed (spontaneous) abortion" | O02.1 | Pregnancy loss after the development of embryo or fetus; cervix closed and bleeding not present; within the first 12 6/7 weeks | Closed | No | Embryonic pole \geq 5 mm without fetal cardiac activity, or embryonic pole $<$ 5 mm and no interval growth over one week |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anembryonic gestation Previously called an "empty sac" or "blighted ovum" | O02.1 | Pregnancy in which a gestational sac develops without development of any embryonic structures" within the first 12 6/7 weeks | Closed | No | Gestational sac $>$ 13 mm without yolk sac or $>$ 18 mm without embryonic pole, or empty sac beyond 38 days' gestation and no interval growth over one week |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sepsis after incomplete EPL Sepsis after complete EPL Septic abortion | O03.37 O03.5 | Miscarriage associated with ascending infection of the endometrium, adnexa, or peritoneum | Open Closed | Yes Yes | Findings consistent with incomplete EPL Findings consistent with complete EPL |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recurrent pregnancy loss Recurrent abortion | N96 | Three or more consecutive losses | — | — | — |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ectopic pregnancy | O00.00 — O00.91 | Any pregnancy outside of the endometrium; most commonly fallopian tube, but can be in the cervix, cornua, ovary, or abdomen | — | — | Empty uterus; may see complex/cystic adnexal mass or fluid in cul-de-sac; embryo with cardiac activity is diagnostic but rarely seen |

Adapted from Prine LW, Macnaughton H, Office Management of Early Pregnancy Loss. Am Fam Physician. 2011;84(1):75-82.

ACOG: In the 1st trimester, the terms miscarriage, spontaneous abortion, and early pregnancy loss are used interchangeably; no consensus on terminology.