**Danger Signs During Pregnancy Handout**

**By Eudine Stevens**

**Vaginal Bleeding**

1st trimester indicative

* Miscarriage – spontaneous, threatened
* Molar pregnancy, or
* Ectopic pregnancy

2nd and 3rd trimester may indicate

* Placenta previa
* Placenta abruption
* Rupture cervical polyp
* Other cause

*Contact midwife at once*

Gush of fluid from vagina

* 1st or 2nd trimester may indicate miscarriage
* Late 2nd or 3rd trimester may indicate premature delivery

*Notify midwife immediately*

Persistent and severe mid back pain- may indicate

* Kidney infection

*Contact midwife at once*

Initial outbreak of blisters in the perineal during 1st trimester- may indicate

* HSV 2 herpesvirus II

*Call for culture ASAP*

Severe abdominal or pelvic pain

1st trimester – may indicate

* Tubal pregnancy

3rd trimester – may indicate

* Placental abruption

*Both are emergencies call immediately*

Swelling in hands and face

* *Especially if there is puffy or coarse features most commonly in 3rd trimester*

Severe headaches, blurry vision or epigastric pain

***May indicate***

* ***Pre-eclampsia- serious condition***

*Notify midwife immediately*

Other signs to watch for:

Cessation of fetal movement

Possible Fetal Demise

If movement or less then usual

*Report to midwife*

Regular uterine contraction prior to 37 weeks gestation

* May indicate impending premature birth
* Lie down
* Don’t wait for them to abate

*Call Midwife immediately*

* Illness or fever
* Unusual vaginal discharge or “fishy” odor
* Persistent vomiting, especially past the first trimester

Please Notify Midwife immediately

# References:

Davis, E. (2004). *Heart & Hands.* Berkley, CA, USA: Celestial Arts.

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Varney, H. K. (2004). *Varney's Midwifery* (4th ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.