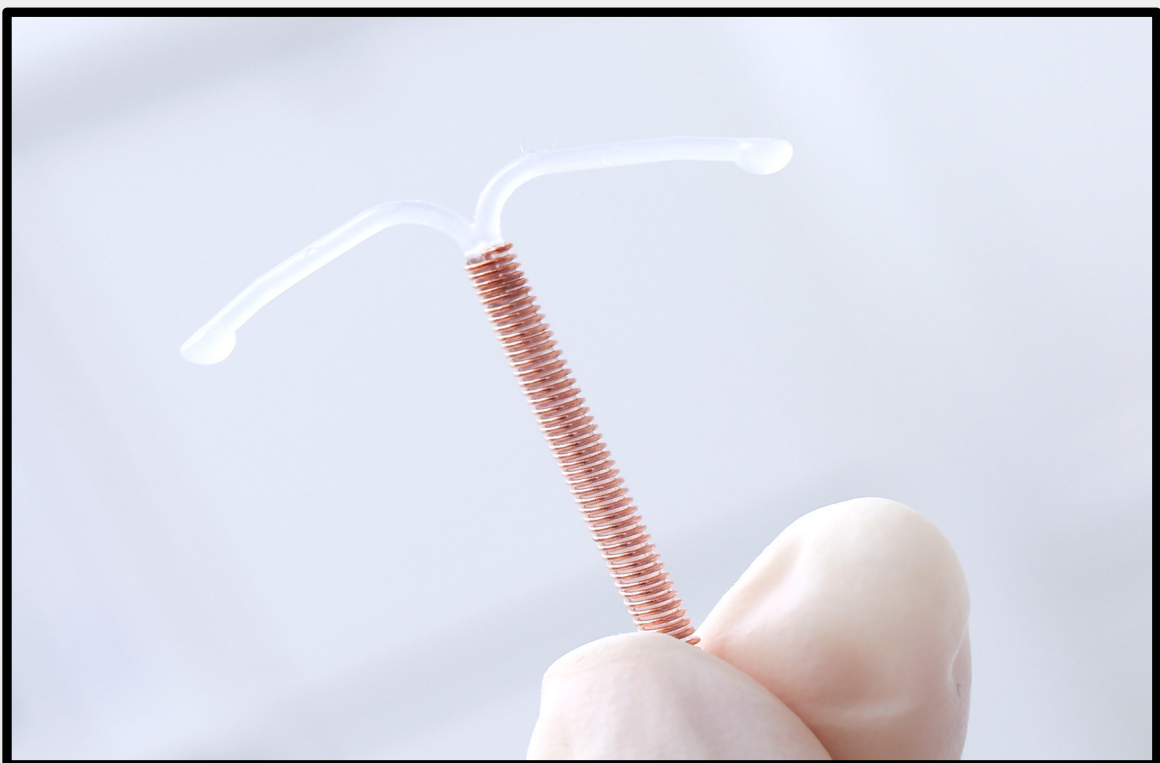


# Missing IUCD Protocol

## Objectives:

1. Identify patients with a missing IUCD on ultrasound and assess whether the Standard Operating Procedure for follow-up x-rays is being followed.
2. Investigate the causes of delays in obtaining further imaging.



### Intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD):

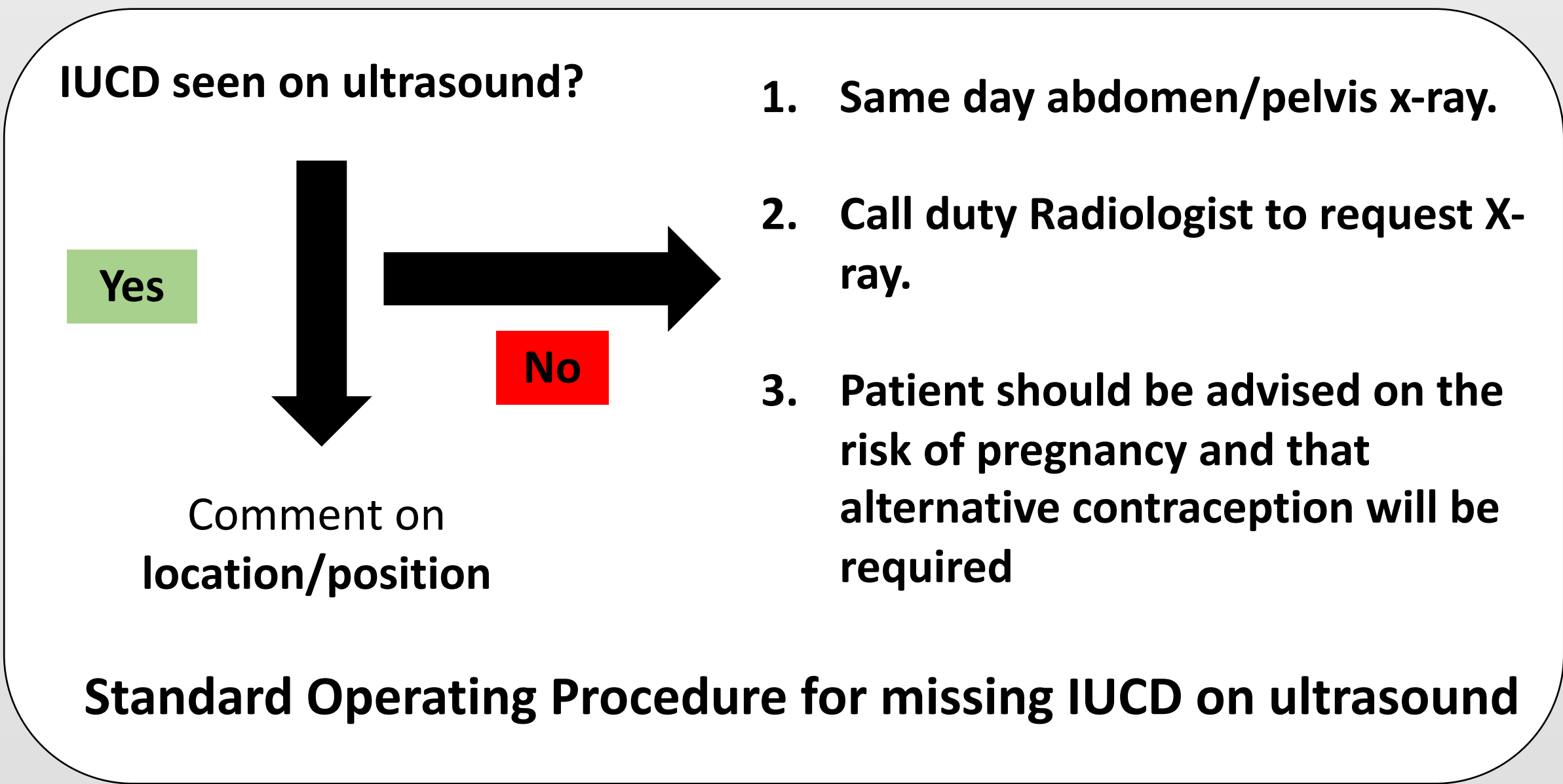
A small device that is inserted into the uterus to prevent pregnancy.

### A missing IUCD:

When the retrieval strings of the device is no longer visible and felt on examination.

## Potential reasons for a missing IUCD:

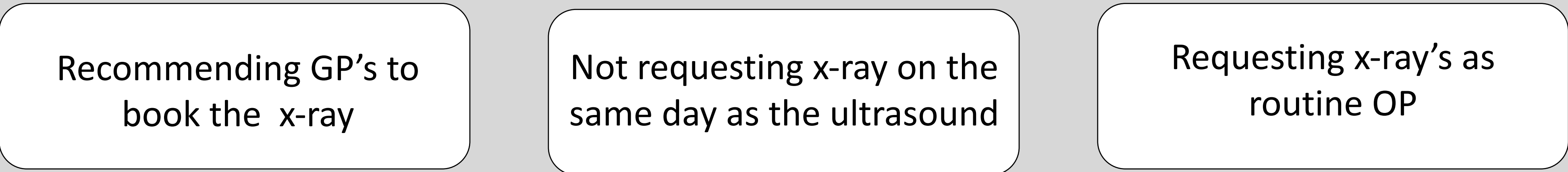
1. Expulsion of IUCD
2. Detachment of IUCD thread/coiling
3. Perforation of uterine wall and migration outside of uterine cavity



## Between May 2019 & April 2024, 304 ultrasound scans for a missing IUCD were performed at L&D Hospital:

- 7% of these scans identified a missing IUCD on ultrasound.
- 68% of reports recommended an x-ray follow-up, with only 50% of those requesting it on the same day.
- 18% of patients with a missing IUCD on ultrasound did not proceed with an abdominal x-ray. No x-ray requests were submitted, and no recommendations for x-ray were included in their reports. No adverse outcome recorded on RIS.

## Identified reasons for delay:



## Recommendations:

- Educating all staff members on Standard Operating Procedure for a missing IUCD.
- A missing IUCD on u/s should have an abdomen/pelvis x-ray requested and performed on the same day. Duty radiology should be called, and requests should be made as **URGENT**.
- If no x-ray is requested/indicated, rationale should be provided in the report.
- If the IUCD is seen on the AXR, refer the patient to EPC (early pregnancy clinic).
- Re-audit in 1 year time.