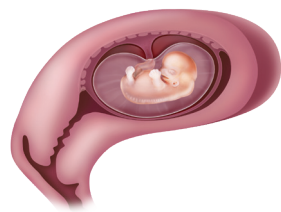


Changes During Pregnancy

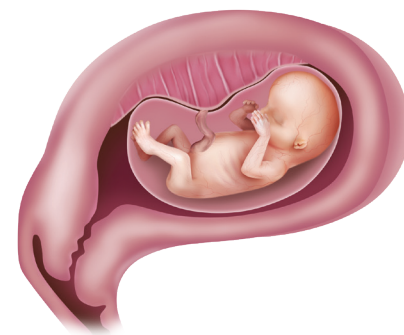
Month 1 to 2 Weeks 1 to 8



- The egg is fertilized by sperm and a growing ball of cells called the blastocyst implants in the uterus.
- Week 5 begins the embryo stage of development.
- The brain and spine begin to form, followed by the neural tube.
- Cardiac tissue starts to develop.
- Parts of the face take shape and the inner ear begins to develop.
- Arm and leg buds appear, and then webbed fingers and toes emerge.
- The long tube that will become the digestive tract takes shape.

By the end of week 8, the embryo is about half an inch long.

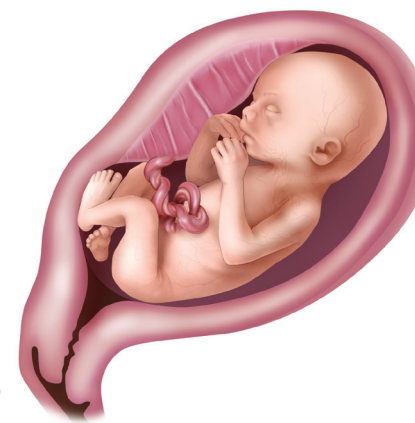
Month 3 Weeks 9 to 12



- Cartilage for the limbs, hands, and feet is forming but won't harden into bones for a few weeks.
- Eyelids form but remain closed.
- The head develops a rounded shape.
- Week 11 begins the fetus stage of development.
- The fetus makes breathing-like movements and swallows amniotic fluid.
- The kidneys are making urine, the pancreas is making insulin, and fingernails have formed.

By the end of week 12, the fetus is about 2 inches long and weighs about half an ounce.

Month 4 Weeks 13 to 16



- By week 13, all major organs have formed and will continue to develop.
- Bones are hardening, especially the long bones.
- The skin is thin and see-through but will start to thicken soon.
- At week 14, the neck is defined, and the lower limbs are developed.
- The fetus's hearing begins to develop.
- The lungs begin to form tissue that will allow them to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide after birth.
- Limb movements become more coordinated.

By the end of week 16, the fetus is more than 4 inches long and weighs more than 3 ounces.

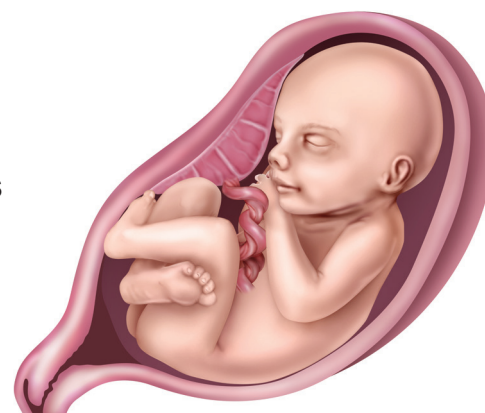
Month 5 Weeks 17 to 20



- At week 18, the fetus can hear sounds.
- The part of the brain that controls motor movements is fully formed.
- The digestive system is working.
- At week 19, the ears, nose, and lips may be recognizable on an ultrasound exam.
- Soft, downy hair called lanugo is starting to form all over the body.

By the end of week 20, the fetus is more than 6 inches long and weighs less than 11 ounces.

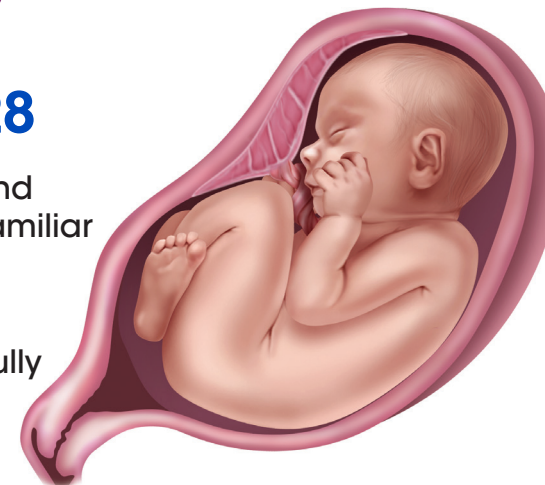
Month 6 Weeks 21 to 24



- The fetus's kicks and turns are stronger now.
- If the hand floats to the mouth, the fetus may suck its thumb.
- Eyebrows are visible.
- At week 23, most of the fetus's sleep time is spent in rapid eye movement (REM) sleep.
- Ridges are forming in the hands and feet that later will be fingerprints and footprints.
- The lungs continue to develop.

By the end of week 24, the fetus is about 12 inches long and weighs about 1½ pounds.

Month 7 Weeks 25 to 28



- The fetus can respond with movement to familiar sounds, such as your voice.
- The lungs are now fully formed but not yet ready to function outside the uterus.
- Loud sounds may make the fetus respond by pulling in arms and legs.
- The lungs begin making surfactant, a substance needed for breathing after birth.
- At 27 weeks, more fat is being added to keep the fetus warm.
- A greasy material called vernix has started to develop. Vernix acts as a waterproof barrier that protects the skin.

By the end of week 28, the fetus is nearly 15 inches long and weighs about 2½ pounds.

Month 8 Weeks 29 to 32



- The fetus can stretch, kick, and make grasping motions.
- The eyes can open and close and sense changes in light.
- The bone marrow is forming red blood cells.
- At week 31, major development is finished, and the fetus is gaining weight very quickly.
- In boys, the testicles have begun to descend into the scrotum.
- At week 32, the fine hair that covered the fetus's body (lanugo) begins to disappear.

By the end of week 32, the fetus is almost 17 inches long and weighs a little more than 4 pounds.

Month 9 Weeks 33 to 36



- The brain is growing and developing rapidly.
- The bones harden, but the skull remains soft and flexible.
- More fat is forming under the skin.
- The fingernails have grown to the ends of the fingers.
- During week 36 or 37, most fetuses turn to a head-down position for birth.

By the end of week 36, the fetus is about 18 inches long and weighs a little more than 6 pounds.

Month 10 Weeks 37 to 40



- The lungs, brain, and nervous system continue to develop.
- The circulatory system is complete, and so is the musculoskeletal system.
- The fetus is taking up a lot of space in the amniotic sac and you should continue to feel movement.
- By now, the fetus's head may have dropped lower into position in your pelvis.

By the end of week 40, the fetus is 20 inches long and may weigh 7½ to 8 pounds.

How the Uterus Grows During Pregnancy

The size of your uterus can help show how long you have been pregnant. The uterus fits inside the pelvis until week 12. By week 36, the top of the uterus is under your rib cage.

Weeks



Changes In Your Body

The First Trimester

- Your period stops.
- Your breasts may become larger and more tender.
- Your nipples may stick out more.
- You may need to urinate more often.
- You may feel very tired.
- You may feel nauseated and may vomit.
- You may crave certain foods or lose your appetite.
- You may have heartburn or indigestion.
- You may feel bloated and have excess gas.
- You may be constipated.
- You may gain or lose a few pounds.

The Second Trimester

- Your appetite increases and nausea and fatigue may ease.
- Your abdomen begins to expand. By the end of this trimester, the top of your uterus will be near your rib cage.
- You will begin to feel the fetus move.
- The skin on your abdomen stretches and may feel tight and itchy. You may see stretch marks.
- Your abdomen may ache on one side or the other as the ligaments that support your uterus are stretched.
- You may get brown patches, called the "mask of pregnancy," on your face.
- Your areolas, the darker skin around your nipples, may darken.
- Your feet and ankles may swell.

The Third Trimester

- You can feel the fetus's movements strongly.
- You may be short of breath.
- You may need to urinate more often as the fetus drops and puts extra pressure on your bladder.
- Colostrum—a yellow, watery pre-milk—may leak from your nipples.
- Your navel may stick out.
- You may have contractions (abdominal tightening or pain). These can signal false or real labor.

PFS1026: This information is designed as an educational aid to patients and sets forth current information and opinions related to women's health. It is not intended as a statement of the standard of care, nor does it comprise all proper treatments or methods of care. It is not a substitute for a treating clinician's independent professional judgment. For ACOG's complete disclaimer, visit www.acog.org/WomensHealth-Disclaimer.

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