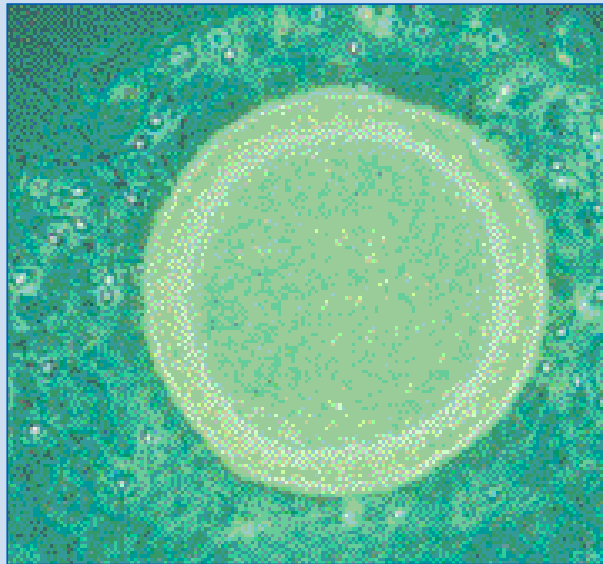


# *Fetal Development*

## *Day one*

*Development  
begins on  
the day of  
fertilization*



*The human egg surrounded by spermatozoa.  
Too small to be seen by the human eye.*

*A* pregnant woman may notice her first missed menstrual period at the end of the second week after conception, or about four weeks after the first day of her last normal period.

There are different kinds of urine tests for pregnancy. Some may not be accurate for up to three weeks, or five weeks after the first day of your last normal period.

## 2 weeks

*(4 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The human embryo is about one-hundredth ( $\frac{1}{100}$ ) of an inch long.
- Implantation began the first week and continues.

*By the  
25th day,  
the heart  
begins to beat*

## 4 weeks

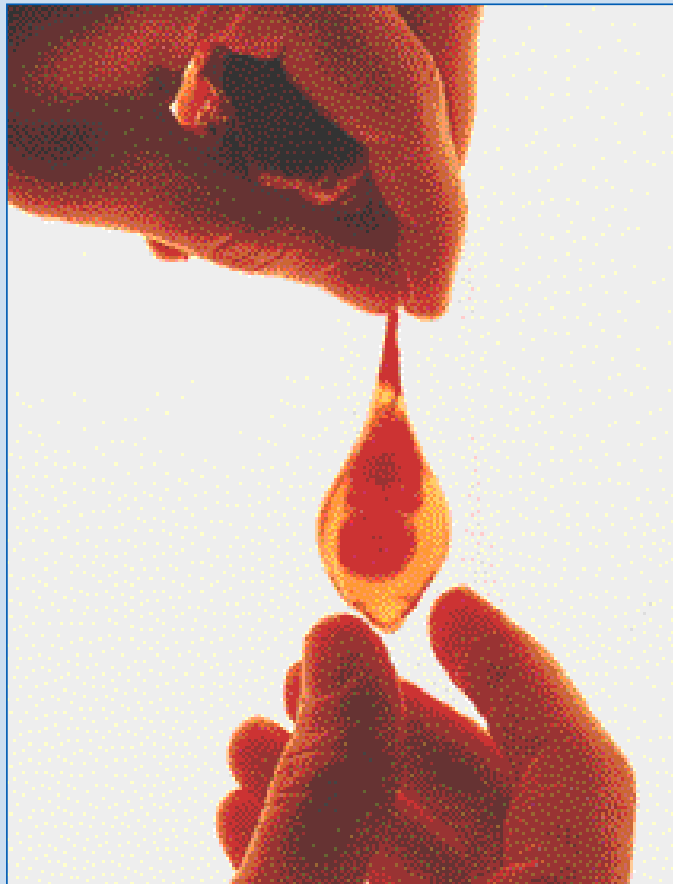
*(6 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The embryo is about one-sixth ( $\frac{1}{6}$ ) of an inch long.
- By the end of the first month, the embryo has a head and a trunk.
- Structures that will become arms and legs, called limb buds, begin to appear.
- The heart, now in a tubular form, begins to beat by the 25th day.

## 6 weeks

*(8 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

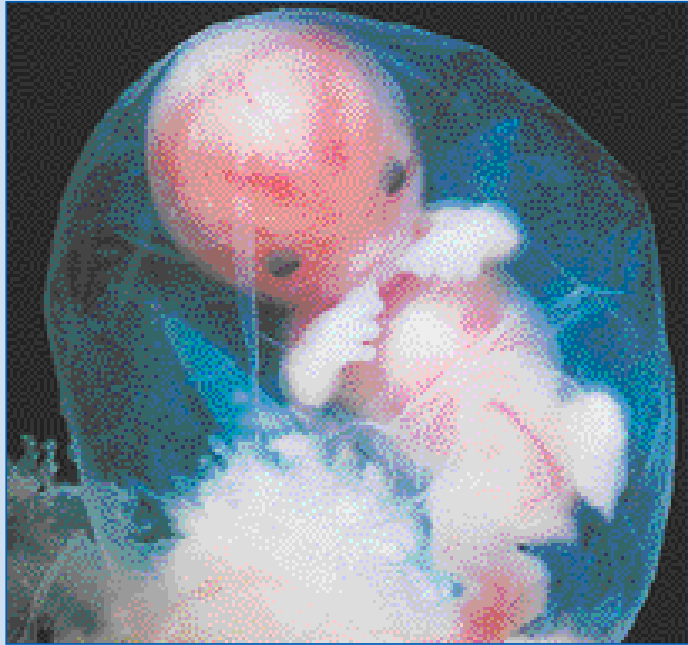
- The embryo is about half an inch long and has a four-chambered heart.
- Electrical activity begins in the developing brain and nervous system.
- The fingers begin to develop.
- The embryo has nostrils.



*The photo here is three-fourths the actual size.*

*The embryo  
begins to form  
arms, legs, hands,  
toes and  
a face*

## *8 weeks*



*The photo here is just over two times actual size.*

*(10 weeks after the first day of the  
last normal menstrual period)*

- The embryo is about one and one-fifth (1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>) inches long.
- The head is about half the size of the embryo.
- The beginnings of all key body parts are present, although they are not completely developed or positioned in their final locations.
- The embryo has ears, fingers, and toes.

*The fetal  
heart beat  
can be  
detected  
electronically*

## **10 weeks**

*(12 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

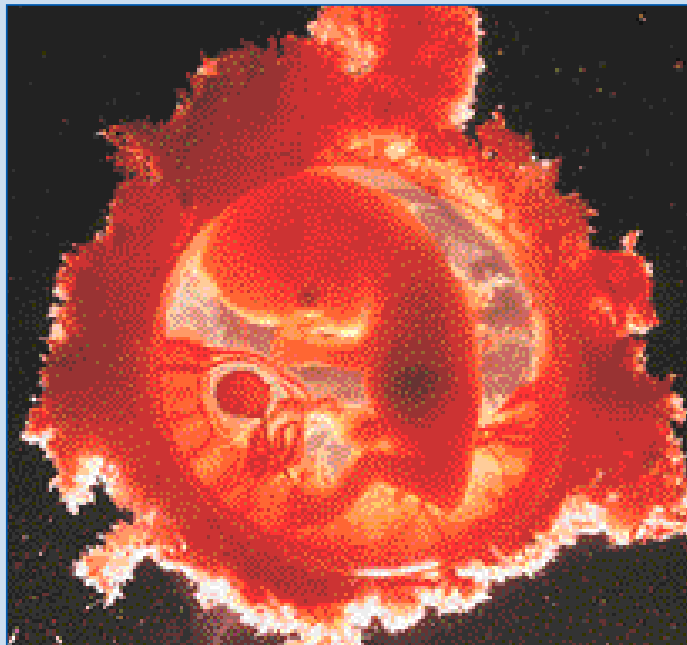
- The fetus is about two and one-half (2½) inches from head to rump.
- The fingernails are developing.
- Between 8 and 10 weeks, the fetus begins small, random movements, though they are too slight to be felt yet.
- The fetal heart beat can be detected electronically.

*The doctor can often tell you if the fetus is a boy or a girl by special tests*

## 12 weeks

*(14 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about three and one-half (3½) inches from head to rump.
- The fetus is able to swallow, and the kidneys are able to make urine.
- A doctor may be able to tell you if it's a boy or a girl by special tests.
- Blood begins to form in the bone marrow.



*The photo here is half the size.*

## 14 weeks

*(16 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about four and three-fourths ( $4\frac{3}{4}$ ) inches from head to rump.
- The head is erect and the legs are developed.

*The fetus can  
kick, swallow  
and sleep*

## 16 weeks

*(18 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about five and one-half ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) inches from head to rump.
- The ears stick out from the head.



*The photo here is nearly a third of the actual size.*

*The fetus has been moving for several weeks.*

*Now the woman begins to feel these movements*



*The photo here is two-thirds actual size.*

## **20 weeks**

*(22 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about seven and one-half (7½) inches from head to rump.
- The fetus has fingerprints, and may have some head and body hair.
- Although the fetus has been able to move for several weeks, movements, known as “quickening,” are now felt by the pregnant woman.



*About 4 out of  
10 babies born  
now will live*

## **24 weeks**

*(26 weeks after the first day of the last  
normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about nine (9) inches from head to rump.
- The fetus can respond to sound.
- About 4 out of 10 babies born now will live.

*At 28 weeks,  
the fetus  
has lungs  
that can  
breathe air*

## **28 weeks**

*(30 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about ten and one-half (10½) inches from head to rump.
- The fetus has lungs that are capable of breathing air, although medical help may be needed.
- The eyes are open.
- About 9 out of 10 babies born now will survive.

*The fetus can  
grasp firmly*

## **32 weeks**

*(34 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about eleven and three-fourths ( $11\frac{3}{4}$ ) inches from head to rump.
- Almost all babies born now will live.

## **36 weeks**

*(38 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about thirteen and one-half ( $13\frac{1}{2}$ ) inches from head to rump.
- The fetus can grasp firmly.

*The baby has  
reached full term  
and is  
ready to  
be born*

**38 weeks**

*(40 weeks after the first day of the last normal menstrual period)*

- The fetus is about fourteen (14) inches from head to rump, and may be 20 inches or more overall.

**The baby is full term and ready to be born.**

If you decide to give birth, the services directory the doctor gave you with this book tells you where to find medical and financial help, as well as counseling.