



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



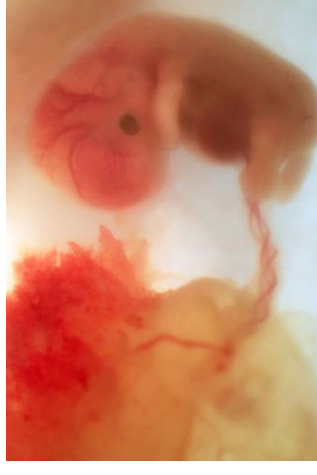
Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



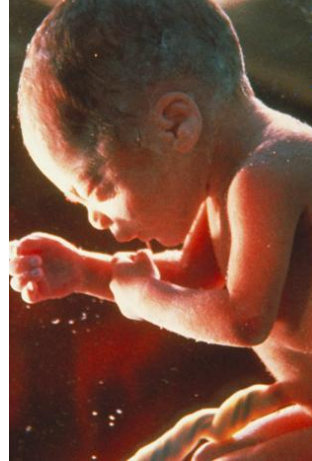
Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.



Copyright (c) 1996-2005, WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos are reproduced under "fair use" terms for the purpose of education only.

#### Month 4:

The baby is about six inches long and weighs about six ounces. Coated with soft downy hair called "lanugos", the skin is covered with vermin, a thick white cream which protects it from the salty amniotic fluid. Awake or asleep, the baby moves at least 50 times each hour and although very small, the strong little heart pumps six gallons of blood every day! Fine hair, eyelashes, and fingerprints are all complete and the baby's face begins to resemble the parents.

#### Month 3:

By the second trimester, the baby measures 2 1/2 to 3 inches in length. Fully formed the heart rate can be heard with a special instrument and just as adults, the fetal baby can experience the rapid eye movement (REM) sleep of dreams. From 12 weeks, the baby can stretch and move around the womb. Able to suck the thumb, hiccups occur when amniotic fluid is swallowed. The baby can close fingers around an object placed in the hand. Cartilage skeleton begins to change over to real bone.

#### Month 2:

By eight weeks the embryo is 1/2 an inch long, the major muscles systems have developed, and the tiny human is perfectly developed with all external features and internal organs and long, tapering fingers and feet. By 10 weeks, 20 tiny baby teeth are forming in the gums, and the little growing person squints, swallows, yawns, and moves the tongue. If you touch the palm, a tight fist will be made. Brain waves can be measured and the little one will react to loud noises.

#### Month 1:

The heart, no larger than a poppy seed, has been beating since Day 18 and pumping blood through a closed circulatory system since Day 21, blood whose type may be different from the mothers. Within a week the respiratory system also begins to form. Four weeks after conception the eyes, ears, nose, teeth, and tongue begin to form and limb buds are visible.

#### Conception

Once the sperm and egg join in the fallopian tube, a unique human being is created. The initial 46 chromosomes, 23 from each parent, pre-determine all of this person's physical characteristics. Upon moving into the uterus, the developing embryo searches for a place to implant and grow. In the next few weeks, the central nervous system, the circulatory system, and the skeletal systems all start to form.

#### Month 9:

By nine months, most of the baby's bones have hardened, although the skull is still pliable. Soon the baby will settle down lower in the abdomen in preparation for birth and may seem less active. Skin is pink and smooth and the child measures 19 to 20 inches in length. Lungs are mature and at approximately eight pounds the baby is ready for life outside your womb.

#### Month 8:

At eight months of pregnancy, the baby may weigh from four to six pounds and is gaining about a half pound per week. Soon the baby will turn head down in preparation for the coming birth. Tremendous brain growth occurs at this time and most body organs are now developed with the exception of the lungs. If the baby kicks, you'll not only feel it but also be able to see it on the outside.

#### Month 7:

By month's end, the baby is 14 to 16 inches long and can weigh 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds. Eyes have completely formed, and the tongue has developed taste buds. Body fat is beginning to form in preparation for life outside the womb. During this time, antibodies are also received from the mother to protect from a wide variety of diseases.

#### Month 6:

The baby continues to practice breathing by inhaling amniotic fluid in preparation for the big day—the first breath of air. Eyes begin to part and open occasionally for short periods of time. Hiccups are not uncommon. The baby learns constantly. After birth, the baby prefers the mother's voice because it has been heard filtered through the amniotic fluid. From 26 weeks, babies exhibit a whole range of typical baby behavior and moods, including scratching, smiling, crying, hiccupping, and sucking.

#### Month 5:

By 20 weeks a baby will have grown to one pound and though still small and fragile, can hear and recognize a mother's voice. Using an ultrasound device the doctor can tell if the child is a girl or a boy. From 18 weeks, babies can open their eyes and although vision is the last sense to develop, there is sometimes just enough light filtered through the mother's tissue that a fetal baby can respond when the mother is in bright light.