

Fetal Development



First Trimester 0-13 Weeks



1/6 of an inch long

0-2 Weeks

Pregnancy begins after the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP).



1/8 of an inch long

4 Weeks

A home pregnancy test should display a positive result. The ball of cells formed during fertilization have developed into an embryo in the uterus.



1/4 of an inch long

6 Weeks

An embryo's major systems and structures, e.g. the brain and spinal cord, develop. The neural tube closes, and the heart beats at a regular rhythm.



1/2 inch long

8 Weeks

The embryo is now called a fetus. All key body parts are present. The brain continues to grow and the lungs begin to form.



1 1/4 inches long

10 Weeks

The critical part of development is complete. Tissues, kidneys, the brain, liver, and intestines are beginning to function.



Over 2 inches long

12 Weeks

The fetus is able to swallow, the kidneys make urine, and reflexes have developed. External genitals have formed.



Second Trimester 14-27 Weeks



3 1/2 inches

14 Weeks

The fetus develops lanugo, a fine, downy hair all over its body. Lanugo helps the fetus retain body heat until it accumulates fat.



4 1/2 inches

16 Weeks

The fetus doubles in size and weight. Fetal movements, called quickening, may be felt.



5 1/2 inches

18 Weeks

Fetal organs and structures have been formed. An ultrasound may reveal the sex of the fetus.



10 inches long

20 Weeks

This is the halfway point of pregnancy. The fetus is now covered in a cheese-like coating, called vernix caseosa, which protects its skin.



11 inches, 1 lb.

22 Weeks

Fetal facial features are more distinct.



12 inches, 7 oz.

24 Weeks

The brain is growing rapidly. Taste buds and the lungs are developing.



14 inches, 2 lbs.

26 Weeks

The lungs are developing surfactant, the substance that allows the lungs to inflate. The fetus begins to inhale and exhale- practicing breathing movements.



The longer the pregnancy, the higher the likelihood of a healthier birth outcome.

Third Trimester 28-40 Weeks



15 inches, 2.2 lbs.

28 Weeks

Breathing movements and body temperature are now controlled by the central nervous system.



16 inches, 3.5 lbs.

30 Weeks

Major fetal development is complete. The fetus begins rapidly gaining weight.



16.7 in. 3 3/4 lbs.

32 Weeks

The fetus' bones are hardening though the skull remains soft.



18 in. 4 3/4 lbs.

34 Weeks

The kidneys are fully developed and the liver can process some waste products.



18.5 in, 5.5 lbs.

36 Weeks

The fetus gains about an ounce a day and fat develops under the skin.



19.5 inches, 6.8 lbs.

38 Weeks

The lanugo is mostly shed, the fetus has accumulated fat all over to keep warm after birth.



20 inches, 7.5 lbs.

40 Weeks

This fetus is fully developed. The due date arrives but is just an estimate; it is normal to give birth before or after this date.