

Pregnancy

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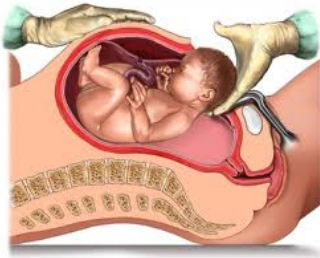
What does Pregnant mean?



What is pregnancy?

Pregnancy is the carrying a baby in the uterus of a female. Sometimes a woman may carry one or more off springs and [twins](#) or [triplets](#) are more common.

It is a period of expectant waiting and one that all of the women aspire to experience at least once in their lifetime.



Child Birth:

[Childbirth](#) usually occurs about 38 weeks after the fertilization.

Approximately 40 weeks from the last normal menstrual period (LNMP) the delivery of a woman is expected in human beings.

Progression of Pregnancy

Initiation

Pregnancy occurs when the female gamete fertilized by the male gamete, [spermatozoon](#). It is commonly called as ‘conception’.

The fertilized egg is termed as zygote and the egg will be fertilized by the sperm through the sexual intercourse between a man and a woman.

Prenatal period

It is the period between 5 months of pregnancy to 7 completed days after birth.

Postnatal period

It begins immediately after the birth of a child and then extends for about six weeks.

Perinatal period

It starts between the 20th to 28th week of gestation and ends between 1 to 4 weeks after birth.

Duration of Pregnancy

Expected date of delivery (EDD)

EDD is 40 weeks counting from the first day of the [last menstrual period](#) (LMP), and birth usually occurs between 37 and 42 weeks. Generally it can be mentioned as 9 months and a complete week for an easy understanding. The actual pregnancy duration

is typically 38 weeks after conception. Pregnancy calculated from the conception date. But the first day of the last menstrual period also required calculating the date of delivery.

Naegele's rule

The [Naegele's rule](#) helps for estimating date of delivery from the first day of last menstrual cycle. If a woman knows the exact date of sexual intercourse or conception it would be better to calculate the EDD. But mostly woman can remember the first day of last menstrual cycle only and based on that the EDD is calculated. The woman should deliver the baby on the expected day + or – 2 days are common to the EDD. If it reaches the overdue, doctors may decide to do operation for the woman for the child birth.

IVF

If the couples have any fertilization problems like problem of women like, uterus infection etc or the men with low sperm count etc can get a baby through the advent of [artificial insemination](#) (AI) and [in vitro fertilisation](#). These science advancements help a lot for the infertile parents.

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Reference Links:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pregnancy>
- <http://www.indianwomenshealth.com/Pregnancy-72.aspx>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_44UaGJoGyk
- <http://www.medicinenet.com/pregnancy/article.htm>

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