

Diagnosis and Physiology of Pregnancy

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Diagnosis of Pregnancy

The pregnancy can be detected in many ways. The pregnant woman can identify this by the absence of menstruation and the common symptoms. She can detect it thro medical tests. Since pregnancy identification kits are available in the market the pregnant woman can detect it without the help of doctors too.

The symptoms of Pregnancy

- nausea and vomiting,
- excessive tiredness and fatigue,
- craving for certain foods not normally considered a favorite,
- frequent urination particularly during the night.
- [human chorionic gonadotropin](#) (hCG) in the blood and urine,
- missed menstrual period,
- implantation bleeding that occurs at [implantation](#) of the embryo in the uterus during the third or fourth week after last menstrual period,
- increased basal body temperature sustained for over 2 weeks after [ovulation](#)

Pregnancy Tests

1. Blood Test

2. Urine Test

Blood pregnancy tests are more accurate than urine tests. Home pregnancy tests are [urine](#) tests, and normally can detect a pregnancy after 25 days of fertilization.

Diagnostic criteria: Women who are sexually active can detect by the delay in period

Physiology of Pregnancy

Three periods or three trimesters

Pregnancy consists of 3 trimesters, each of about three months. While there are no hard and fast rules, these distinctions are useful in describing the changes that take place over time.

Growth of baby during pregnancy

First trimester:

In medicine, pregnancy is often defined as beginning when the developing [embryo](#) becomes implanted into the endometrial lining of a woman's uterus.

- The first 12 weeks of pregnancy are considered to make up the first trimester.
- The first two weeks from the first trimester are calculated as the first two weeks of pregnancy even though the pregnancy does not actually exist.
- The third week fertilization occurs and the 4th week [implantation](#) takes place.
- In the 4th week, the fertilized egg reaches the uterus and implanted into its wall and take [nutrients](#) from it for its growth.
- The 5th week start of the [embryonic period](#). Baby's brain, spinal cord, heart and other organs begin to form.
- In the 6th week, development of basic facial features (arms and legs)
- In the 7th week, the brain, face and arms and legs quickly develop.
- In the 8th week, the baby starts moving and in the next 3 weeks, the baby's toes, neck and genitals develop as well.

Second trimester:

- Weeks 13 to 28 of the pregnancy are called the second trimester.
- 20th week the uterus, can expand up to 20 times its normal size during pregnancy.
- Although the [fetus](#) begins to move and takes a recognizable human shape during the first trimester, it is not until the second trimester that movement of the fetus, often referred to as "quickening", can be felt. This typically happens in the fourth month, more specifically in the 20th to 21st week, or by the 19th week if the woman has been pregnant before.

Growth of baby during pregnancy

Third trimester:

- Final weight gain of the woman takes place.
- Rapid growth of fetus
- Fetus gains up to 28 gram per day.
- The woman's belly will transform in shape as the belly drops due to the fetus turning in a downward position ready for birth.

Premature baby:

sometimes [premature](#) baby may survive. The latest science techniques helps to save the life of baby by providing the same temperature like mother's womb to the baby.

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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>
- <http://babykids.blogspot.com/2010/09/beginning-of-pregnancy-signs-tests.html>
- http://wn.com/pregnancy_calendar

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