

Changes to Your Baby and Your Body During Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Conception to Week 16

Your Baby

Your baby's traits and sex are set when the sperm meets the egg. During this time:

- The brain, nerves, heart, lungs and bones are forming.
- The heart starts beating between weeks 9-12. The heartbeat is 120 to 160 beats per minute.
- Your baby is very sensitive to drugs and alcohol at this time.
- Ears, arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet and toes are formed by the 3rd month.
- Reflex movements allow your baby's elbows to bend, legs to kick and fingers to form a fist.
- Your baby will be about 2 ¼ inches long and weigh about ¼ pound by week 16.

Your Body

During the first three months your monthly menstrual periods have stopped and your body is making hormones. It is common to:

- Have nausea, called morning sickness, because it is more common in the morning, but it can happen at any time of the day.
- Gain weight of 1-2 pounds by week 8 and 2-3 more pounds by week 16.
- Have tender and larger breasts. Your waist size may also increase.
- Urinate more often.
- Be more tired and have less energy.
- Feel more emotional, have mood swings and cry easily.
- Have trouble with gas or constipation until the end of your pregnancy.
- Sweat more.
- Have sore and bleeding gums, nosebleeds and stuffiness.
- Have stomach cramps after exercise or sexual activity.

By the end of this trimester, you may feel more hunger and have more energy.

2nd Trimester: Week 16 – 28

Your Baby

- Eyebrows, eyelashes and hair begin to grow on the head and a soft hair, called lanugo, on the body.
- The skin is wrinkled and red and is filling out with fat.
- The kidneys make urine.
- Your baby will begin to move a lot. Your baby can kick, cry, hiccup and respond to outside noises. There will be active and quiet times.
- The heartbeat is easy to hear by the doctor.
- The eyes are almost developed and the eyelids can open and close.
- Your baby starts a growth spurt in length and weight. Your baby will be about:
 - 10 inches long and weigh $\frac{3}{4}$ pound by week 20
 - 12 inches long and weigh $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds by week 24
 - 15 inches long and weigh $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds by week 28

Your Body

- Your pregnancy is beginning to show. You may gain $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 pound a week or 3-4 pounds per month.
- Your nipples and a line on your stomach may darken.
- You may develop stretch marks on your stomach, hips and breasts.
- Your breasts grow larger, softer and the veins start to show. Clear, white fluid, called colostrum, may leak from your breasts.
- Your joints and muscles get softer to prepare for delivery.
- You feel good most of the time and look healthy.
- You may be less tired and have more energy.
- You may have trouble thinking or concentrating.
- Your back may ache at times. Sleep on a firm mattress, wear low or flat-heeled shoes, and avoid lifting or picking up heavy objects.
- You feel hunger more often and you may feel cravings for some foods. You may have heartburn after eating heavy, greasy or spicy food.
- You may have an increased chance of getting a urinary tract infection. Drink 8 glasses of water each day.
- Your hair may feel thicker and oily.

- You may feel muscles of the uterus tighten and relax. These are called Braxton Hicks contractions and are preparing you for labor. **Call your doctor** if you have 4 or more contractions in 1 hour.
- Your sex drive may increase or decrease and change from week to week.
- You feel more involved with the baby growing inside of you. You may think about things that can go wrong with your baby. Most women do.

3rd Trimester: Weeks 28 to 40

Your Baby

- The brain and nervous system are growing quickly. The heartbeat may be heard when another person places an ear on your abdomen. The lungs continue to mature.
- Sleeping and waking times are definite. Kicking and stretching movements are often felt.
- Your baby will be about:
 - 16 inches long and weigh 2½ to 3 pounds by week 32
 - 18 inches long and weigh 5½ pounds by week 36
 - 20 inches long and weigh 6½ to 7½ pounds by week 40
- Your baby's eyes are open.
- The skin is smooth because fat begins to fill out the wrinkles.
- Your baby is active with patterns of sleep and wakefulness.
- By week 32, your baby may be mature enough to survive if it is born early.
- The baby may settle into a head down position. The baby may seem quieter because there is less space to move.

Your Body

- You gain weight faster the last month.
- You may notice kicking against your ribs. Your stomach can be seen moving as your baby moves.
- You may feel awkward and tire more easily. Light-headedness can occur when you get up.
- Your feet, hands and ankles may swell. You may have back and leg pains.
- Your breasts may leak milk.
- You may have trouble sitting or lying down for long periods of time.
- It is hard to sleep and get comfortable.

- You may feel short of breath when the baby pushes against your lungs.
- You may need to urinate more often, as the baby's head crowds your bladder. You may leak urine.
- You may have hemorrhoids and heartburn.
- You may sweat and begin to tire more easily.
- You may be tired of being pregnant and ready for delivery.
- Your uterus lowers as the baby drops toward the birth canal. This is called lightening. You may feel pressure low in your pelvis as the baby settles into position for birth.
- The Braxton Hicks contractions are more frequent. **Call your doctor** if you have 4 or more contractions in one hour.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.