

# DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF A FETUS DEVELOPING IN THE WOMB

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## Abstract

This article is about how a fetus spends its final weeks in the womb, and what changes first-time mothers should be prepared for during this period. Of course, all stages of pregnancy are extremely important and require attention. A lot has to happen for a fetus to form, grow, and be born. Learning about how a fetus grows can be exciting and eye-opening, especially when you realize how many organs, systems, and body functions develop over the course of nine months. It is important to note that any changes in the fetus during pregnancy should not be ignored.

**Keywords:** Motility, fetal head size, cerebral circulation, fetal heart.

## Introduction

Signs of a mature fetus at the end of pregnancy are as follows:

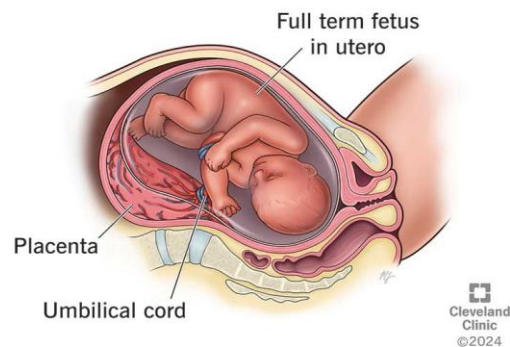
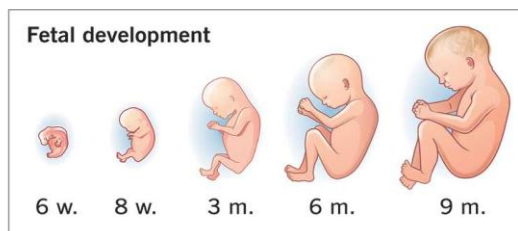
1. Average weight 3000-3500 g (from 2500 g to 4000 g), length (height) 50-52 cm (more than 45 cm), head circumference 32-34 cm, pelvic circumference 35 cm, pelvis 28 cm.
2. The ears and nasal concha of a mature fetus are hard, the nails are hard, protruding from the fingertips. The hair on the head reaches 2 cm, the eyebrows and eyelashes are well defined.
3. The surface of the placenta attached to the mother (uterus) is red, gray, slightly shiny (this is due to the migrating membrane), there is an incomplete barrier between the segments, which are divided into 15-20 segments. This barrier is formed by the decidual membrane.
4. The membrane surrounding the fetus consists of 3 layers, the amnion is the inner layer of the fetal membrane, touching the chorion, covered with a single-layer cylindrical epithelium, without blood vessels, the decidual or migrating membrane is a modified functional layer of the uterus. The decidual membrane is more firmly attached to the chorion. The amniotic membrane is the inner membrane of the fetal egg. At the end of pregnancy, it thins and becomes covered with a cylindrical epithelium without blood vessels. It has 2 layers: the inner one - the layer facing the fetus, the outer one - a layer of tissue tightly adhering to the chorion.
5. Two arteries and one vein pass through the umbilical cord, covered by the amniotic membrane. Venous blood flows from the artery, and arterial blood from the vein. The blood flowing from the vein is rich in oxygen and nutrients. The umbilical cord may contain false nodes, which are caused by twisting of the umbilical artery or varicose veins. In some cases, true nodes occur in the umbilical cord, which can become severely compressed when the fetus moves, resulting in a lack of blood and oxygen in the blood vessels to the fetus, which can lead to fetal death.





6. In the last trimester of pregnancy, the amniotic fluid volume is from 50 to 1000 ml, sometimes more. This is a pathological condition called hypercapnia. The composition of amniotic fluid is very complex, it contains the hair of the fetal body, oil that partially covers the fetal body, separated from the sebaceous glands, and other electrolytes, trace elements and protein.

**Pregnancy**



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7. A mature fetus cries out loudly, moves, breathes deeply and evenly at birth. Its skin is pink, and its shoulders and upper back are covered with fine hair. The subcutaneous layer is well developed, and grayish oil residues are preserved on its skin.

The head of a mature fetus is its largest part. Usually, while in the mother's womb, the head and liver of the fetus are supplied with pure blood, and accordingly, the size of its head is somewhat larger, which is why it is more prone to resistance in the birth canal. Therefore, it is important to know the size of the head of a mature fetus, its position and structure at the entrance to the pelvis. Although the edges of the baby's skull bones touch each other, the sutures at their edges are not well developed and



do not fit tightly between each other. Such a weak suture allows the bones to slide over each other during childbirth, causing the head to shrink slightly and adapt to the size of the pelvis. The bones of the brain do not fully ossify until the baby is born, and 2 gaps remain at the corners of the bones that join together. This gap is called the fontanelle. There is a small and large fontanelle. In addition to the dimensions of the fetal head, body dimensions are also important during childbirth. The transverse distance between the two shoulders (diameter biacromialis) is 12 cm, and the circumference of the shoulder according to this measurement is 35 cm. The transverse distance between the hips (diameter biliacus) is 9-9.5 cm, and the circumference of the hips according to this measurement is 27-28 cm. You can go into labor at any time during the last month. At this point, the fetus's position may have changed in preparation for birth. Ideally, it will be head down in your uterus.

The last few weeks of pregnancy are divided into the following groups:

- Early term: 37 0/7 weeks to 38 6/7 weeks.
- Full term: 39 0/7 weeks to 40 6/7 weeks.
- Late term: 41 0/7 weeks to 41 6/7 weeks.
- Post-term: 42 0/7 weeks and beyond.

As the fetus descends into the pelvis and prepares for birth, you may feel very uncomfortable during this final period. Your provider may recommend that you count your contractions, which is a way to monitor how much your fetus is moving.

Week 37: The baby's toenails reach the end of the toes. You will begin to feel the baby's pelvis drop.

Week 38: The baby is gaining 0.5 pounds per week to reach its final size.

Week 39: The baby is full-term and ready to meet the world!

Week 40: This is the week of your due date. If you notice signs of labor, call your prenatal care provider.

A lot has to happen for a pregnancy to form, grow, and be born. Learning about how a baby grows can be exciting and eye-opening, especially when you realize how many organs, systems, and body functions develop over the course of nine months. Both you and the baby growing inside you will go through many changes during pregnancy. Ask your prenatal care provider about these changes and any other questions you may have. They are there to be a resource for you and provide you with the best possible support.

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