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The Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF) is a Registered Charity that aims to improve the health of pregnant women and their babies through research and training in fetal medicine. The FMF with the support of an international group of experts, has introduced an educational programme both for healthcare professionals and doctors and in the last 25 years the FMF has donated more than 45 million for scholarships and research grants.In 2016/2017, the FMF made a donation of 22 million to Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for investment in the Trust's Fetal Medicine services. The main sources of income for The Fetal Medicine Foundation areThe Fetal Medicine Centreand King's Fertility. Nestled comfortably in the womb, your baby is constantly growing and changing. Use this timeline to learn what your baby's up to and how they're developing throughout pregnancy. Want a heads-up on what's coming next? The BabyCenter appOpens a new window gives you a sneak peek at each week's milestones.Follow your baby's development week by week, from conception to labor, in these amazingly detailed, doctor-reviewed images.At the start of this week, you ovulate. Your egg is fertilized 12 to 24 hours later if a sperm penetrates it. Over the next several days, the fertilized egg (called a zygote) will start dividing into multiple cells as it travels down the fallopian tube, enters your uterus, and starts to burrow into the uterine lining. Read about fertilization.Now nestled in the nutrient-rich lining of your uterus is a microscopic ball of hundreds of rapidly multiplying cells that will develop into your baby. This ball of cells, called a blastocyst, has begun to produce the pregnancy hormone hCG, which tells your ovaries to stop releasing eggs. Read about implantation.Your ball of cells is now officially an embryo. You're now about 4 weeks from the beginning of your last period. It's around this time when your next period would normally be due that you might be able to get a positive result on a home pregnancy test.Your baby is the size of a poppy seed.Read about your pregnancy at 4 weeks.Your baby resembles a tadpole more than a human, but is growing fast. The circulatory system is beginning to form, and cells inthe tiny "heart" will start to flicker this week.Your baby is the size of a sesame seed.Read about your pregnancy at 5 weeks.Your baby's nose, mouth and ears are starting to take shape, and their intestines and brain are beginning to develop. Your baby is the size of a lentil. Read about your pregnancy at 6 weeks.Your baby has doubled in size since last week, but still has a tail, which will soon disappear. Little hands and feet that look more like paddles are emerging from the developing arms and legs.Your baby is the size of a blueberry.Read about your pregnancy at 7 weeks.Your baby has started moving around, though you won't feel your baby moveyet. Nerve cells are branching out, forming primitive neural pathways. Breathing tubes now extend from theirthroat to their developing lungs. Your baby is the size of a raspberry. Read about your pregnancy at 8 weeks.Your baby's basic anatomy is developing (they even have tiny earlobes now), but there's much more to come. Their embryonic tail has disappeared and they weigh just a fraction of an ounce but are about to start gaining weight fast.Your baby is the size of a grape.Read about your pregnancy at 9 weeks.Your embryo has completed the most critical portion of development. Their skin is still translucent, but their tiny limbs can bend and fine details like nails are starting to form.Your baby is the size of a strawberry.Read about your pregnancy at 10 weeks.Your baby is almost fully formed. They're kicking, stretching, and even hiccupping as their diaphragm develops, although you can't feel any activity yet.Your baby is the size of a fig.Read about your pregnancy at 11 weeks.This week your baby's reflexes kick in: Their fingers will soon begin to open and close, toes will curl, and their mouth will make sucking movements. Your baby is the size of a lime.Read about your pregnancy at 12 weeks.This is the last week of your first trimester. Your baby's tiny fingers now have fingerprints, and their veins and organs are clearly visible through their skin. If you're having a girl, her ovaries contain more than 2 million eggs.Your baby is the size of a plum.Read about your pregnancy at 13 weeks.In this illustration, you can see how big and yet, how tiny still your baby is as you begin your second trimester. After the first trimester, a miscarriage is much less likely. And for many moms-to-be, early pregnancy symptoms like morning sickness and fatigue have faded away. If you're feeling more energetic now and haven't been exercising, it's a good time to start a regular pregnancy fitness routine. Plus: See our ultimate pregnancy to-do list for the second trimesterYour baby's brain impulses have begun to fire and they're using their facial muscles. Their kidneys are working now, too. If you have an ultrasound, you may even see them sucking their thumb. Your baby is the size of a lemon.Read about your pregnancy at 14 weeks.Your baby's eyelids are still fused shut, but they can sense light. If you shine a flashlight on your tummy, they'll move away from the beam. Ultrasounds done this week may reveal your baby's sex. Your baby is the size of an apple.Read about your pregnancy at 15 weeks.The patterning on your baby's scalp has begun, though their hair isn't visible yet. Their legs are more developed, their head is more upright, and their ears are close to their final position. Your baby is the size of an avocado.Read about your pregnancy at 16 weeks.Your baby can move their joints, and their skeleton formerly soft cartilage is now hardening to bone. The umbilical cord is growing stronger and thicker. Your baby is the size of a turnip.Read about your pregnancy at 17 weeks.Your baby is flexing their arms and legs, and you may be able to feel those movements. Internally, a protective coating of myelin is forming around theirnerves. Your baby is the size of a bell pepper.Read about your pregnancy at 18 weeks.Your baby's senses smell, vision, touch, taste and hearing are developing and they may be able to hear your voice. Talk, sing or read out loud to them, if you feel like it. Your baby is the size of a pomegranate.Read about your pregnancy at 19 weeks.Your baby can swallow now and their digestive system is producing meconium, the dark, sticky goo that they'll pass in their first poop either in their diaper or in the womb during delivery. Your baby is the size of a banana.Read about your pregnancy at 20 weeks.Your baby's movements have gone from flutters to full-on kicks and jabs against the walls of your womb. You may start to notice patterns as you become more familiar with their activity. Your baby is the size of a mango.Read about your pregnancy at 21 weeks.Your baby now looks almost like a miniature newborn. Features such as lips and eyebrows are more distinct, but the pigment that will color their eyes isn't present yet. Your baby is the size of a sweet potato.Read about your pregnancy at 22 weeks.Your baby's ears are getting better at picking up sounds. After birth, they may recognize some noises outside the womb that they're hearing inside now. Your baby is the size of a grapefruit.Read about your pregnancy at 23 weeks.Your baby cuts a pretty long and lean figure, but chubbier times are coming. Their skin is still thin and translucent, but that will begin to change soon too. Your baby is the size of an ear of corn.Read about your pregnancy at 24 weeks.Your baby's wrinkled skin is starting to fill out with baby fat, making them look more like a newborn. Their hair is beginning to come in, and it has color and texture. Your baby is now the same weight as an acorn squash.Read about your pregnancy at 25 weeks.Your baby is now inhaling and exhaling amniotic fluid, which helps develop their lungs. These breathing movements are good practice for that first breath of air at birth. Your baby is the size of a spaghetti squash.Read about your pregnancy at 26 weeks.This is the last week of your second trimester. Your baby now sleeps and wakes on a regular schedule, and their brain is very active. Their lungs aren't fully formed, but they could function outside the womb with medical help. Your baby is the size of a head of cauliflower.Read about your pregnancy at 27 weeks.In this illustration, you'll notice that your growing baby takes up quite a bit of room these days. In the third trimester, you might be peeing more often or have leg cramps as they press on nerves in your hips and back. Now's the time to do things like sign up for a childbirth class, choose a doctor for your baby, and create a baby registry, if you haven't done so already.Your baby's muscles and lungs are busy getting ready to function in the outside world, and their head is growing to make room for their developing brain. Your baby is the size of a butternut squash.Read about your pregnancy at 29 weeks.Your baby is surrounded by a pint and a half of amniotic fluid, although there will be less of it as they grow and claim more space inside your uterus. Your baby is the size of a large cabbage.Read about your pregnancy at 30 weeks.Your baby can now turn their head from side to side. A protective layer of fat is accumulating under their skin, filling out their arms and legs. Your baby is the size of a coconut.Read about your pregnancy at 31 weeks.You're probably gaining about a pound a week now. Half of that goes straight to your baby, who will gain one-third to half their birth weight in the next seven weeks in preparation for life outside the womb. Your baby is the size of a papaya.Read about your pregnancy at 32 weeks.The bones in your baby's skull aren't fused yet. That allows them to shift as their head squeezes through the birth canal. They won't fully fuse until adulthood. Your baby is the size of a pineapple.Read about your pregnancy at 33 weeks.Your baby's central nervous system is maturing, as are their lungs. Babies born between 34 and 37 weeks who have no other health problems usually do well in the long run. Your baby is the size of a cantaloupe.Read about your pregnancy at 34 weeks.It's getting snug inside your womb but you should still feel your baby moving as much as ever.Your baby's kidneys are fully developed, and their liver can process some waste products. Your baby is the size of a honeydew melon.Read about your pregnancy at 35 weeks.Your due date is very close, and though your baby looks like a newborn, they're not consideredfull-term until 39 weeks. Over the next two weeks, their lungs and brain will continue to mature. Your baby is the size of a bunch of Swiss chard.Read about your pregnancy at 37 weeks.At 39 weeks, your baby will be considered full-term. In the illustration, you can see the mucus plug sealing your uterus and how squished your intestines are now.Your baby's physical development is complete, but they're still busy putting on fat and growing bigger. Your baby is the size of a pumpkin.Read about your pregnancy at 39 weeks.If you're past your due date, you may not be as late as you think, especially if you calculated it solely based on the day of your last period. Sometimes women ovulate later than expected. Your provider will continuously assess your pregnancy to make sure you can safely continue your pregnancy. Your baby is the size of a watermelon.Read about your pregnancy at 40 weeks.Your baby is now considered late-term. Going more than two weeks past your due date can put you and your baby at risk for complications, so your provider will probably talk to you about inducing labor. They may perform a non-stress test (NST) to monitor your baby's fetal heart rate and your contractions to make sure your baby isn't in any distress. Read about your pregnancy at 41 weeks.Meeting your baby for the first time is so exciting but exactly what will lead up to that moment is unpredictable, and it's natural to feel nervous. Here's some help as you prepare for the big day. Find out how you'll know you're in labor and what to expect from delivery: Learn the signs of labor and stages of laborRead when to go to the hospital for laborTake our free childbirth classWas this article helpful?YesNoKate Marple is a writer and editor who specializes in health, pregnancy, and parenting content. She's passionate about translating complicated medical information into helpful pregnancy and parenting advice that's easy to understand. She lives in San Francisco with her family.Fetal development occurs between the embryonic stage of development and birth in humans. This stage begins after 11 weeks of gestation, when the embryo begins to exhibit human characteristics, and lasts until birth. Typically, all the major organs and tissues can be observed; however, they are not yet fully developed or appropriately situated within the body. Throughout the process of fetal development, the growing fetus goes through three distinct stages, each characterized by specific events. As the embryo enters the fetal stage of development, the placenta becomes functional. The fetus typically measures 30 mm from the crown to the rump and weighs approximately 8 g (shown below). By the end of this stage, the fetus is approximately 15 cm. During this time, several organs can be observed, including the hands, feet, heart, and brain. The pancreas and liver begin to secrete fluids. In addition, the genitals begin form and the head is prominent, comprising almost half of the fetal body. The fetus also exhibits unregulated movements required for the lung, muscle, and neurological development that is occurring. During this period of fetal development, the mother begins to feel the movements of the growing fetus, which grows from approximately 15 cm to 38 cm and weighs about 500 g by the end of this stage (shown below). During this stage, the eyebrows and eyelashes form, muscle development increases and the fetus becomes more active, the lung continues to develop with the formation of the alveoli. In addition, the nervous system rapidly develops, exhibited by the development of the inner ear, control over the opening and closing of the eyelids, as well as other bodily processes. The genitals are fully formed and the sex can be reliably discerned. At this stage, the fetus begins to gain weight as the body fat increases. The lungs continue to mature and become capable of gas exchange. In addition, hair begins to thicken on the head and breast buds appear. The fetus is considered to be full-term at approximately 38 weeks (between 36 and 40 weeks) of pregnancy (shown below). While fetuses born prior to 36 weeks can survive outside the uterus, medical intervention is required to promote survival, particularly due to the underdevelopment of the lungs in premature infants. 1. Which of the following statements is TRUE:A. The lungs are one of the first organs to fully mature in a developing fetus.B. The heart is one of the first organs to form in the developing fetus.C. The sex of the fetus can be observed as early as 13 weeks.D. A fetus born at 37 weeks has a low probability of survival.B is correct. The heart is one of the first organs to form in the developing embryo, whereas the lungs are one of the last organs to fully mature. The sex of the fetus is not discernible until after the fourth month when the genitals are fully formed. Since full-term is considered to be between 36 and 40 weeks, a fetus born at 37 weeks is likely to be healthy and able to survive outside of the uterus. 2. The fetus becomes increasingly active due to:A. Increased neurological developmentB. Increased muscle developmentC. Increased bone and limb developmentD. All of the aboveD is correct. As the brain and various neurological pathways develop, the fetus becomes increasingly more motile. In addition, muscle development during fetal development results in both involuntary and voluntary movements in order to build muscle tone and prepare for future breathing. Similarly, as the limbs, hands and feet develop, the fetus gains the ability to move in a much more complex fashion. It is these developmental processes that result in an increasingly active fetus.ReferencesDel Valle et al. (2017). A genomic atlas of human adrenal and gonad development. Wellcome Open Res.2:25.Gilbert SF. (2000). Developmental Biology. 6th edition. Sinauer Associates; Sunderland (MA).Meyeer G, Schaaps, JP, Moreau L, and Goffinet AM. (2000). Embryonic and Early Fetal Development of the Human Neocortex. Journal of Neuroscience. 20 (5): 1858-1868.Sandikcioglu M, Mlsted K, and Kjaer I. (1994). The prenatal development of the human nasal and vomeral bones. Journal of Craniofacial Genetics and Developmental Biology. 14(2):124-134.Fetal development is an orderly and intricate process. It begins before you even know youre pregnant and ends with the birth of your baby. Between conception and delivery, there are many detailed steps that have to occur.There are three stages of fetal development: germinal, embryonic and fetal. Most people dont talk about their pregnancy in these terms, but it can be helpful to know.Germinal stageThe germinal stage is the shortest stage of fetal development. It begins at conception when a sperm and egg join in your fallopian tube. The sperm fertilizes the egg and creates a zygote. The zygote begins its journey down to your uterus over the course of about one week. During this journey, the zygote divides many times, eventually creating two separate structures. One structure eventually becomes the embryo (and later, the fetus) and the other becomes the placenta. Cell division continues at a rapid pace. Eventually, the zygote turns into a blastocyst. The blastocyst arrives at your uterus and implants into your uterine lining. If implantation is successful, your body immediately begins producing hormones to support a pregnancy. This also stops your menstrual period.Embryonic stageThe embryonic stage lasts from about the third week of pregnancy until the end of the eighth week of pregnancy. The blastocyst begins to take on distinct human characteristics. Its now called an embryo. Structures and organs like the neural tube (which later becomes the brain and spinal cord), head, eyes, mouth and limbs form. The cells that will form the fetal heart begin to cluster around five to six weeks and can pulse. Buds that will become arms and legs also form around the sixth week. By the end of the eighth week, most of the embryos organs and systems take shape. For a lot of people, this is the point in pregnancy where morning sickness begins.Fetal stageThe fetal stage of development begins around the ninth week and lasts until birth. This is when the embryo officially turns into a fetus. The fetus gets its assigned sex around nine weeks of pregnancy, although your healthcare provider cant detect it on ultrasound yet. The fetuss major organs and body systems continue to grow and mature. Things like fingernails, eyelashes and hair also grow. The fetus is able to move its limbs, although you may not feel it until 20 weeks of pregnancy. The majority of growth in both weight and length happens in the fetal stage.When does a pregnancy start?The start of pregnancy is actually the first day of your last menstrual period (LMP). This is the gestational age of the fetus. Its about two weeks ahead of when conception actually occurs. Though it may seem strange, the date of the first day of your last period will be an important date when determining your due date. Your healthcare provider will ask you about this date and will use it to figure out how far along you are in your pregnancy.How does conception work?Each month, your body goes through a reproductive cycle that can end in one of two ways. Youll either have a menstrual period or become pregnant. This cycle is continuously happening during your reproductive years from starting your period to menopause around age 50.In a cycle that ends with pregnancy, there are several steps. First, a group of eggs (called oocytes) gets ready to leave your ovary for ovulation (release of the egg). The eggs develop in small, fluid-filled cysts called follicles. Think of these follicles as small containers for each immature egg. Out of this group of eggs, one will become mature and continue through the cycle.The mature follicle now opens and releases the egg from your ovary. This is ovulation.After ovulation, the opened follicle develops into a structure called the corpus luteum. This releases the hormones progesterone and estrogen. Progesterone helps prepare your uterine lining for pregnancy. If you dont become pregnant during a cycle, this lining is what your body sheds during your period. If sperm fertilizes the egg, conception occurs and the fertilized egg begins its journey to your uterus, where it will implant.How long is a pregnancy?Traditionally, we think of pregnancy as a nine-month process. However, this isnt always the case. A full-term pregnancy is 40 weeks, or 280 days. Depending on what months youre pregnant during (some are shorter and some longer) and what week you deliver, you could be pregnant for either nine months or 10 months. This is completely normal and healthy.Stages of Growth Month-by-Month in PregnancyThe fetus will change a lot throughout a typical pregnancy. This time is divided into three stages, called trimesters. Each trimester is a set of about three months. Your healthcare provider will probably talk to you about fetal development in terms of weeks. So, if youre three months pregnant, youre about 12 weeks.Youll see distinct changes in the fetus, and yourself, during each trimester of pregnancy.First trimesterThe first trimester will span from conception to 12 weeks. This is generally the first three months of pregnancy. During this trimester, the fertilized egg will change from a small grouping of cells to a fetus that begins to have human features. The first trimester is exciting, but also when most people develop unpleasant symptoms like morning sickness and fatigue.Month 1 (weeks 1 through 4)Although its strange, the first two weeks of pregnancy are a getting ready period. Your body slowly releases more hormones and your uterus prepares for a potential pregnancy. At the end of the second week, your ovary releases an egg (ovulation). If sperm meets an egg just after ovulation, the process to pregnancy continues.Week 3: Fertilization occurs during the third week. A sperm and egg join and create a zygote.Week 4: The tiny bundle of cells turns into a blastocyst and implants into your uterine lining. The beginning of what will become the placenta forms. A water-tight sac forms around the blastocyst. This is the amniotic sac, and it provides cushioning to a fetus during pregnancy.By the end of the fourth week, the blastocyst is about 2 millimeters (mm) long the size of a poppy seed.Month 2 (weeks 5 through 8)The second month of pregnancy is when most people realize theyre pregnant. Pregnancy hormones go into overdrive, and by about the fifth week, an at-home pregnancy test will show as positive. This is when many people begin to feel symptoms of pregnancy.Week 5: The neural tube (brain, spinal cord and other neural tissue of the central nervous system) forms. The tiny heart tube will pulse 110 times a minute by the end of the fifth week.Week 6: Tiny buds that become arms and legs also develop. Blood cells are taking shape, and circulation will begin. Structures thatll become the ears, eyes and mouth take form. Your healthcare provider can probably detect pulses in the cluster of cells that will form the heart on a vaginal ultrasound.Week 7: Bones begin replacing soft cartilage and genitals begin to form. The embryos head is large in proportion to the rest of its body. Some people think the embryo resembles a small tadpole or seahorse due to its prominent tail (which recedes) and large head.Week 8: All of the major organs and body systems are developing. The embryo has web-like hands and feet. Eyes become visible and ears begin to form. The umbilical cord is fully developed and helps to transport oxygen and blood to the embryo.After the 8th week, healthcare providers refer to the embryo as a fetus. It will remain a fetus until birth.By the end of the second month, the fetus is about 0.5 to 1 inch (in) long about the size of a black bean.Month 3 (weeks 9 through 12)The third month of pregnancy is when an embryo becomes a fetus. Its a period of rapid growth and development. The fetus develops distinct facial features, limbs, organs, bones and muscles. By the end of the 12th week, the fetus has an assigned sex, but it wont be visible on ultrasound for several more weeks.Week 9: The beginnings of teeth and taste buds are forming. Its muscles are forming and its body shape takes on more of a human appearance. But, its head is still 50% of its length. Your provider may be able to hear its heartbeat with a Doppler ultrasound.Week 10: The arms, hands, fingers, feet and toes are fully formed (no more webbed fingers). Fingernails and toenails are beginning to develop and the external ears form. The external genitals also begin to form, but its too soon to see them on an ultrasound.Week 11: The fetus is starting to explore a bit by doing things like opening and closing its fists and mouth. Its knees, elbows and ankles are working, but its too soon to feel any kicks. The bones are hardening, but its skin is still see-through. Facial features are more prominent.Week 12: All the organs, limbs, bones and muscles are present and will continue to develop in order to become fully functional. The circulatory, digestive and urinary systems are also working and the liver produces bile. The fetus is drinking and peeing amniotic fluid.Since the most critical development has taken place, your chance of miscarriage drops considerably after 12 weeks (the end of the first trimester). Most people begin feeling some relief from morning sickness now, too.At the end of the third month, the fetus is about 2.5 to 3 inches long about the size of a plum.Second trimesterThe second trimester of pregnancy is often thought of as the best part of the experience. By this time, any morning sickness is probably gone and the discomfort of early pregnancy has faded. You may also start to feel movement as the fetus flips and turns in your uterus. During this trimester, many people find out about the fetuss assigned sex. This is typically done during an anatomy scan (an ultrasound that checks physical development) at around 20 weeks.Month 4 (weeks 13 through 16)Many people begin showing signs of being pregnant at this point in pregnancy, especially if youve been pregnant before. Your pregnancy care provider can hear the fetal heartbeat loud and clear on a Doppler ultrasound. The fetus can even suck its thumb, yawn, stretch and make faces.Week 13: Vocal cords form and the fetuss large head begins to grow proportionate to its body.Week 14: The fetuss skin starts to thicken and fine hair begins to grow. It can start bringing its fingers to its mouth and turn its head. External genitals are fully developed and fingerprints begin to form.Week 15: Some organs, like intestines and ears, are moving to their permanent location. The fetus still uses amniotic fluid to practice breathing, but its lungs are beginning to develop. The fetus begins to make more purposeful movements, like sucking its thumb or smiling.Week 16: The fetus has lips and its ears are developed enough that it can hear you talk. Even though its eyes are closed, the fetus can react to light by turning away from it.By the end of the fourth month, the fetus is about 5 inches long and weighs about 4 ounces. For reference, thats about as big as an avocado.Month 5 (weeks 17 through 20)By the end of the fifth month of pregnancy, most people begin to feel the fetus moving around. The first movements are called quickening and can feel like a flutter. If your pregnancy has been healthy to this point, youll finally get your first ultrasound. You may even get to find out the fetuss assigned sex.Week 17: The fetus still has thin skin, but will start to put on fat. Its skin is covered with a whitish coating called vernix. This cheesy substance is thought to protect fetal skin from long-term exposure to amniotic fluid.Week 18: The fetus is covered in lanugo, a peach fuzz-like hair. It helps keep the fetus warm and provides another layer of protection. The fetus may have a sleep-wake cycle, and loud noises may wake the fetus if its asleep.Week 19: The fetus is getting stronger and most people begin to feel kicks and punches. The fetus also has its own unique set of fingerprints and can hiccup.Week 20: The fetuss nails grow towards the end of its fingers. The area of the brain responsible for its five senses begins to develop.By the end of the fifth month, the fetus is about 9 to 10 inches long and weighs about 1 pound.Month 6 (weeks 21 through 24)If you could look inside your uterus right now, youd see that the fetuss skin is reddish in color, wrinkled and veins are visible through translucent skin. In the sixth month of pregnancy, its eyelids begin to part and you may notice regular, jerky movements. The fetus responds to sounds by moving or increasing its pulse.Week 21: Limb movements are coordinated and frequent. The fetus has bone marrow that helps it produce blood cells.Week 22: The fetuss grasp is getting stronger and it can touch its ears and the umbilical cord. It can hear your heartbeat, your stomach rumble and your breathing.Week 23: If born prematurely, the fetus may survive after the 23rd week with intensive care. It will begin rapidly adding fat to its body.Week 24: The fetuss lungs are fully developed, but not well enough to work outside your uterus.By the end of the sixth month, the fetus is about 12 inches long and weighs about 2 pounds.Month 7 (weeks 25 through 28)The fetus continues to mature and develop reserves of body fat. The fetus changes position frequently and responds to stimuli, including sound, pain and light. The amniotic fluid begins to diminish.Week 25: More body fat makes the fetuss skin less wrinkled and plumper. Its nervous system is quickly maturing.Week 26: The fetus makes melanin, the substance that gives skin and eyes their color. The fetuss lungs start to make surfactant, a substance that helps it breathe after birth.Week 27: The fetus can open its eyes and blink. It also has eyelashes.Week 28: The fetus may begin turning head-down in your uterus as it gets ready for birth. At the end of the seventh month, the fetus is about 14 to 15 inches long and weighs between 2 and 3 pounds.Third trimesterThis is the final part of your pregnancy. You may be tempted to start counting down the days to your due date and hope that it comes early, but each week of this final stage of development helps the fetus prepare for birth. Throughout the third trimester, the fetus gains weight quickly, adding body fat thatll help after birth.Your healthcare provider will monitor you closely as you approach your due date. Youll visit your provider biweekly and then weekly. Make sure to ask your provider any questions you have about labor and delivery.Month 8 (weeks 29 through 32)The fetus continues to mature and develop reserves of body fat. The brain develops most rapidly during this time. The fetus can see and hear most stimuli. Most internal systems are well-developed, but the lungs may still be immature.Week 29: You may notice the kicks and jabs feel more like pokes now that the fetus is getting cramped in the amniotic sac.Week 30: The fetus can control its own body heat. Its brain is maturing and growing rapidly.Week 31: The fetus can process more information and stimuli. You can probably notice more distinct patterns in when its awake and when its asleep.Week 32: The fetuss skin isnt translucent anymore. Other than the lungs and brain, most other organs are well-formed and ready for birth.The fetus is about 17 to 18 inches long and weighs as much as 5 pounds.Month 9 (weeks 33 through 36)During this stage, the fetus continues to grow and mature. The lungs are close to being fully developed at this point in pregnancy. The ninth month is mostly about putting the finishing touch on growth and brain development.Week 33: The fetuss bones are hardening, with exception of the cranial bones around its brain, which needs to be soft to descend the birth canal.Week 34: The vernix that protects the fetuss skin starts to get thicker.Week 35: The fetuss brain continues to grow, but still only weighs two-thirds of what it should at birth.Week 36: The fetus loses its lanugo and it has hair on its head.The fetus is about 17 to 19 inches long and weighs from 6 to 7 pounds.Month 10 (Weeks 37 through 40)In this final month, you could go into labor at any time. At this point, the fetuss position may have changed to prepare for birth. Ideally, its head-down in your uterus. You may feel very uncomfortable in this final stretch of time as the fetus drops down into your pelvis and prepares for birth. Your provider may encourage you to perform kick counts, which is a way to track how much the fetus moves.Week 37: The fetuss toenails reach the end of its toes. You may start to feel the fetus drop into your pelvis.Week 38: The fetus is packing on 0.5 pounds per week to get to its final size.Week 39: The fetus is full-term and ready to meet the world!Week 40: Its your due date week. Call your pregnancy care provider if you notice any signs of labor.The fetus is about 18 to 20 inches long and weighs about 7 to 9 pounds.

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