



People have marveled at and tried to understand the miracle of life for centuries. The mystery of how two microscopic cells can unite and develop into a human being had been known only to the Creator Himself. Now, thanks to recent advances in medical science and imaging techniques, we have the unequalled privilege of observing the developing life within the mother's womb. With this technology, we can see the miraculous fusion of two cells that culminates in a fully formed human life in a mere 266 days. Witness this miracle in the making as we journey through the first 9 months.

## A clear picture



It's human nature to be frightened by what we don't know...that scary sound in the middle of the night, a future we can't see, a relationship you think you can't live without. But in reality, fear of the unknown is often worse than learning the truth about that thing we most feared. Feelings and misperceptions can team up to immobilize us – until the fear is exposed. There may not always be an easy way out of a challenging situation.

*But there is always a way through it.*

We are so glad you are here and you are looking for answers. Facts are always a great place to start, don't you think?

# We are here for you.

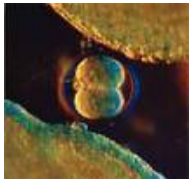
## Let's get started on the journey . . .

- Fertilization age refers to the time elapsed since conception: the fertilization of the egg by the sperm. Most women ovulate (release a mature egg from the ovary) in the middle of their monthly cycle. For instance, if a woman has a 28-day cycle, she will typically ovulate on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after her period began, if a woman conceives and becomes pregnant at that time, this becomes the first fertilization day.
- Gestation age refers to the time elapsed since the mother's first day of her last menstrual period (LMP). Typically, this is two or more weeks earlier than the time of actual fertilization (referred to as fertilization age). In other words, if a woman had her period two weeks ago and then conceives, the gestation age of the developing baby is two weeks; fertilization age is one day. The gestational age is the one traditionally used by medical providers to date pregnancy.

# Here we go. . .

## Conception Day – the day we begin

The egg and sperm most often unite in the fallopian tube (tube from the ovary to the uterus) to form a single cell called a zygote. The zygote contains 46 chromosomes, 23 chromosomes from each parent. This tiny new cell, smaller than a grain of salt, contains all the genetic information for every detail of the new created life – the color of the hair and eyes, the intricate fine lines of the fingerprint, the physical appearance, the gender, the height and the skin tone. This new life is now called an embryo.



**Day 2-5 (after conception)** The embryonic cells continuously divide while traveling down the fallopian tube before arriving at the uterus, around days 3 to 4. Meanwhile, the lining of the uterus prepares for the implantation.

**Day 6-10 (after conception) or Week 2** - The embryo begins to implant in the lining of the uterus on about day 6. Once this occurs, hormones trigger the mother's body to sustain the pregnancy and prevent her monthly periods. The embryo around day 8 is about the size of the "period" used in the sentence (or 0.1 mm).

**Week 4** - By now, the embryo is completely attached to the lining of the uterus. There is enough of the pregnancy-specific hormone (hCG) circulating in the mother's blood to give a positive pregnancy test.



For free pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling and parenting classes, visit us:

**Monday – Friday  
9 am to 4 pm.**

**We are here for you.**



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