

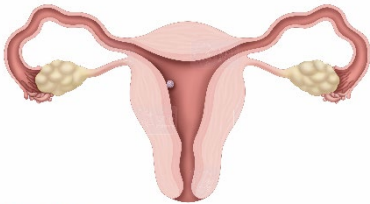
Fetal Development

Below are descriptions of the various stages of gestational development. Note that fetuses may develop at different rates. The descriptions of fetal development are not intended to be complete.

Week 4

4 weeks after the last menstrual period

The embryo is about 1/100 of an inch long (0.254 millimeters) or smaller than a single poppy seed. The ball of cells arranges into a flat disc and begin to form cell layers. Primitive uteroplacental circulation begins.



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A single poppy seed is 1 mm.



Week 6

6 weeks after the last menstrual period

The embryo is about 1/6 inch (0.16 inch) long or about the size of 2 mustard seeds. The embryo changes from a flat disc to a curved, C-shape because of the head and tail folds. Limb buds begin to appear on the side of the trunk. These will later develop into arms and legs. The neural tube forms, which will later become the spinal cord and brain. A primitive gut, trachea, liver, gallbladder, and pancreas begin to form. The cardiovascular system begins to develop around this time. The heart is forming and begins to beat. Lung buds begin to appear.



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A mustard seed is about 2 mm.

2 mustard seeds are about 0.16 inches.



Week 8

8 weeks after the last menstrual period



The embryo is about the size of a blueberry or $\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (0.38-0.5 inches) long. The head is large in comparison to the trunk. The eyes are forming and look like black rings on the sides of the head. The limb buds become flattened for the hand and footplates to develop. The bronchial buds, lymphatic system and kidneys are forming.

A blueberry fruit is 0.20-0.63 inches



Week 10

10 weeks after the last menstrual period



The embryo is $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch (0.875 – 1.25 inches) long or about the size of an extra-large olive. At the end of the first 8 weeks, the main organ systems have begun to form. The eyes, ears and mouth are recognizable. The four heart chambers are formed. The fingers and toes are well-formed. Limbs have elbow and knee joints. The heartbeat can be heard with an electronic monitoring device. The embryo tail disappears.

inches

An extra-large olive is 0.79 –



0.87

Week 12

12 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is about 2 ½ inches (2.5 inches) long from crown to rump (head to butt) or about the size of a large lime. The fetus weight is 1/3 to 1 ounce. The head is large in size compared to the rest of the body. Swallowing movements begin.

A lime size ranges from 1.18 – 2.36 inches.



Week 14

14 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is about the size of a medium apple or $2\frac{3}{4}$ - $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches (2.75 – 3.125 inches) long from crown to rump (head to butt). The fetus weighs about 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The head is very large compared to the rest of the body. The face becomes more human looking. The ears are still basic. The eyes and ears move closer to the actual position. The fingers and toes are recognizable. The kidneys begin to make urine. External genitalia are formed. Movements begin, but are not usually felt by the woman.

A commercial apple ranges in size from – 3.25 inches.



2.75

Week 16

16 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is about $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches (4.75 inches) long from crown to rump (head to butt) or about the size of a large lemon. The fetus weighs about 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The fetus is going through a period of rapid growth.

A lemon is $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ in long.



Week 18

18 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is about the size of a medium avocado or 5 ½ inches (5.5 inches) long from crown to rump (head to butt). The fetus weighs between 6 and 7 ounces. The ears are developed and stand out from the head. Breathing movements can be seen as the fetus' chest moves in and out. The hair and nails begin to grow.



An avocado is 2.8 inches to 7.9 inches.

Week 20

20 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is about 6 ½ inches (6.5 inches) long from crown to rump (head to butt), about the length of an ear of corn, and weighs about 10 ounces. The skin is thin and nearly see-through because of the lack of fat under the skin. The sex of the fetus can now often be known by ultrasound. Most women feel the fetus moving or kicking, which is called quickening.



A long ear of corn measures 6 ¾ - 7 ½ inches long.

Week 22

22 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is the length of a banana or about 7 ½ inches (7.5 inches) long from crown to rump (head to butt) and weighs just under a pound (14 to 16 oz.). The fetus has fine downy hair, called lanugo, on its body. The eyelashes, eyebrows and hair on the head are showing.

An average banana measures between 7 and 8 inches.



and

Week 24

24 weeks after the last menstrual period



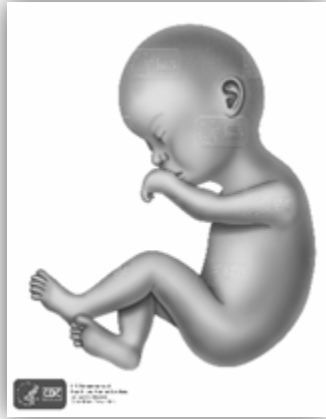
The fetus is about 8 ¼ inches (8.25 inches) from crown to rump (head to butt) which is about the length of a cucumber and weighs about 1 ¼ pounds. The lungs may just be beginning to mature. A fetus born at 24 weeks will have difficulty surviving.

The average cucumber is 8 inches in length.



Week 26

26 weeks after the last menstrual period



Six months after conception, the fetus is the size of an eggplant or about 9 inches long from crown to rump (head to butt) and weighs about 1 ½ to 1 ¾ pounds. The body is lean. The skin appears red and wrinkled due to the lack of body fat.

A fetus born early in the sixth month may have difficulty surviving.



An eggplant length is 8.25 – 9.5

inches.

Week 28

28 weeks after the last menstrual period



The fetus is about 10 inches long, or about the size of a large butternut squash, and weighs around 2 ½ pounds. The eyes can open, and eyelashes are present. The fetus may hear some sounds.



Butternut squash range in size from 5 – 10 inches in length.
