

Life Before Birth



This tiny human is 6-8 weeks old

CONSIDER THIS OBSERVATION BY A NEW YORK DOCTOR

"Eleven years ago while giving an anesthetic for a ruptured ectopic pregnancy (at two months gestation) I was handed what I believe was the smallest living human ever seen. The embryo sac was intact and transparent. Within the sac was a tiny human male swimming extremely vigorously in the amniotic fluid, while attached to the wall by the umbilical cord. This tiny human was perfectly developed, with long, tapering fingers, feet, and toes. It was almost transparent, as regards the skin, and the delicate arteries and veins were prominent to the ends of the fingers.

"The baby was extremely alive and swam about the sac approximately one time per second, with a natural swimmer's stroke. This tiny human did not look at all like the photos and drawings and models of 'embryos' which I have seen, nor did it look like a few embryos I have been able to observe since then, obviously because this one was alive!

"... When the sac was opened, the tiny human immediately lost its life and took on the appearance of what is accepted as the appearance of an embryo at this stage (blunt extremities, etc.).

"It is my opinion that if the lawmakers, and people realized that very vigorous life is present, it is possible that abortion would be found more objectionable than euthanasia."

(Paul Rockwell, M.D. as quoted in **HANDBOOK ON ABORTION** by Dr. & Mrs. J. C. Wilke)



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN A NEW LIFE

The period which most abortionists describe as most desirable for performing an abortion is approximately eight weeks after conception. This is a period of almost unimaginable development.

The dates reported here are approximate dates when specific development or functions begin. The dates shown have all been documented and reported in medical journals. Slight variations may occur. All of this data is limited by the sensitivity of the instruments and human limitations involved in observations. Future research may show that these dates are relatively late compared to observations with better or more sensitive methods. We can only conclude that life and its processes are evident, to any observer who is intellectually honest, at fertilization.

Chronology of the Human Mother

Date of last menstrual period.

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2 weeks, ovulation—conception—fertilization.

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5-9 days, implantation in uterus of mother.

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14 days (approximately), the first menstrual period is missed. The mother is probably wondering if she is pregnant.

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28 days after conception, earliest tests for pregnancy (testing not fully reliable).

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Six weeks after conception, testing for pregnancy relatively reliable. Mother has physical signs of pregnancy and is wondering if she is going to have second missed period or is "truly" pregnant.

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Eight weeks after conception, reported by some anti-life proponents as only a glob of tissue. There are those who claim the mother's right over her body gives the right of abortion.

Chronology of the New Human Life

1. Immediately upon fertilization, cellular development begins. Before implantation the sex of the new life can be determined.
2. At implantation, the new life is composed of hundreds of cells and has developed a protective hormone to prevent the mother's body from rejecting it as a foreign tissue.
3. At 17 days, the new life has developed its own blood cells; the placenta is a part of the new life and not of the mother.
4. At 18 days, occasional pulsations of a muscle—this will be the heart.
5. At 19 days, the eyes start to develop.
6. At 20 days, the foundation of the entire nervous system has been laid down.
7. At 24 days, the heart has regular beats or pulsations. (This is a legal sign of life.)
8. At 28 days, 40 pairs of muscles are developed along the trunk of the new life; arms and legs forming.
9. At 30 days, regular blood flow within the vascular system; the ears and nasal development have begun.
10. At 40 days, the heart energy output is reported to be almost 20% of an adult.
11. At 42 days, skeleton complete and the reflexes are present.
12. At 43 days, electrical brain wave patterns can be recorded. This is usually ample evidence that "thinking" is taking place in the brain. The new life may be thought of as a thinking person.
13. At 49 days, the appearance of a miniature doll with complete fingers, toes and ears.
14. NAME CHANGED FROM EMBRYO TO FETUS. At 56 days all organs functioning—stomach, liver, kidney, brain—all systems intact. Lines in palms. All future development of new life is simply that of refinement and increase in size until maturity at approximately age 23 years. This is approximately two months before "quickening" yet there is a new life with all of its parts needing only nourishment. The mother will usually not feel the child's movements until four months after conception.
15. 9th & 10th week, squints, swallows, retracts tongue.
16. 11th & 12th week, arms & legs move, sucks thumb, inhales and exhales amniotic fluid, nails appearing.
17. 16 weeks (four months), genital organs clearly differentiated, grasps with hands, swims, kicks and turns somersaults (STILL NOT FELT BY MOTHER).
18. 18 weeks, vocal cords working . . . can cry.
19. 20 weeks, hair appears on head; weight—one pound; height—12 inches.

A FETUS OF 10 WEEKS IS NOT ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM ONE OF 20 WEEKS OR ONE OF 30 WEEKS.