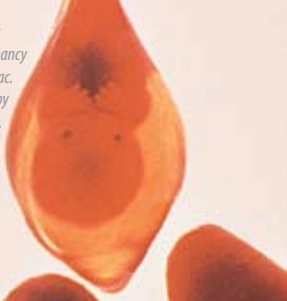


*Baby: 6 week
ectopic pregnancy
in amniotic sac.
Photograph by
Robert Wolfe,
University of
Minnesota.*



Precious Feet - The exact size and shape of an unborn baby's feet 10 weeks after conception.

At no time in your life does more growth and change occur than in the first nine months before birth. Here are the amazing milestones of that time in your life:



1st Day: Conception: Of the 200,000,000 sperm that try to penetrate the mother's egg cell, only one succeeds.¹ At that very moment, a new and unique individual is formed. All of the inherited features of this new person are already determined.

18-20 Days: The foundations of the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are laid.²

21 Days: The heart begins to beat.³ A day later the eyes begin to develop. The earliest stages of the ears are now present.⁴



28-32 Days: Two tiny arms make their appearance and budding legs follow two days later.¹¹ The beginnings of the mouth take shape.⁵ The nose starts to develop.⁶

42 Days: The brain is now divided into 3 parts – one to experience emotion and understand language, one for hearing and one for seeing.⁷

44 Days: Facial muscles develop.⁵ 99% of muscles are present.⁸

7 Weeks: Spontaneous movement begins. The baby then develops a whole collection of moves over the next 4 weeks including hiccupping, frowning, squinting, furrowing the brow, and sucking.⁹

8 Weeks: The baby is now well-proportioned, and about the size of a thumb. Every organ is present. The liver is making blood, the kidneys function, and the heart beats steadily.¹⁰

10 Weeks: The number of connections between nerves and muscles has tripled since last week.¹¹

12 Weeks: The baby swallows and responds to skin stimulation.¹²

4 Months: The baby can grip with hands, make a fist, swim, and turn somersaults.¹²

7 Months: The eyelids begin to reopen, preparing to see the outside world.¹³

9 1/2 Months: The child triggers labor and birth occurs, an average of 264-270 days after conception.¹⁴



Around 1970, physician Dr. Russell Sacco took a striking photo of the perfectly formed feet of a 10-week unborn child it was published world-wide. In 1974, it inspired Mrs. Virginia Evers to create the “Precious Feet” lapel pin, identical in size and shape to an unborn baby’s feet at just 10 weeks after conception. They are used by literally millions of people world-wide to demonstrate the humanity of the unborn.

1. “Life Before Birth,” Life Magazine, Apr. 30, 1965, p. 13. 2. Mitchell, B and Sharma, R., Embryology, New York: Churchill Livingstone, Dec. 2004, p. 4. Note: Carlson and Moore concur that the neural plate, fold and groove are forming around 18-20 days. O’Rahilly puts this at 24-25 days from in vivo ultrasound results. 3. Estimates vary for when the heart begins to beat: 21-22 days, Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 77; at least by 23 days from transvaginal ultrasound results, O’Rahilly, R. and Muller, F., p. 183; 21-22 days, Carlson, B., p. 117; 18 days, Tanner, J. and Taylor, G. and the editors of Time-Life Books, Growth, New York: Life Science Library, 1965, p. 64 (a 40 year old source). 4. Carlson, B., p. 292, 308. O’Rahilly, p. 456, 471 puts the appearance of the eye at about 28 days. 5. O’Rahilly, R. and Muller, F., p. 235, 236, Carlson, B., p. 321-323. 6. Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 236-242. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 88. 7. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 102, 114, 119. 8. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 140. 9. Carlson, B., p. 483, 484. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 199, 200. 10. Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 409-414. 11. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 206. 12. Valman, H. and Pearson, J., “What the foetus feels,” British Medical Journal, January 26, 1980. 13. Carlson, B., p. 305. 14. O’Rahilly, R. and Muller, p. 88-92.