







Maturation 9 wks, 12 wks, 28 wks, Term

- Appearance
- Nervous system
- Movement and sensory response
- Gut, kidney, liver, hematopoiesis
- Endocrines
- Respiratory system
- Cardiovascular







Nervous System Ontogeny of Embryonic fetal movements • Major brain divisions cranial nerves, motor, • General movement, sensory, sympathetic startle - early fetus parasympathetics • Yawn, hiccup, swallow, Fetal gasp - early 2nd trimester • 10-11 wks: myelination • Move eyes 4 mos begins in spinal roots and spinal cord • Mother feels movement 4 mos: myelination brain of fetus 4 mos begins • Diurnal rhythms activity • 6 mos: grooves, sulci, gyri 5 mos At birth brain is 25% of adult · Sucking - near term volume, increase mainly due to myelination Fetal weeks



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Fetal cardiovascular system

- Enriched blood via umbilical vein, *ductus venosus*, IVC to RA, *foramen ovale* to LA to LV to aorta
- •Depleted blood to RA, to RV to pulmonary artery, *ductus arteriosus*, aorta, umbilical arteries to placenta





Fetus early 2nd trimester

• Gut no longer herniated Dilute urine, metanephros

 Liver produces serum albumin, stores glycogen, secretes bile

Lungs gland like

- Endocrine glands partially functional
- Myelination spinal roots and cord has begun
- Hiccup, swallow, gasp, yawn
- Gender differences recognizable





End of fetal development - Term

- Stomach pH becomes acid, some digestive enzymes present
- Meconium in bowel (begins 4 mos)
- Testes descended
- . Myelination of corticospinal tracts to level of medulla
- Lanugo hair replaced by adult hair
- Vernix caseosa covers the body (begins 18 wks)
- Fetus can suck •
- Pupillary light reflex present



becomes contractile. Gap junctions

softens cervix.







The Miracle of Life Lennart Nilsson WGBH NOVA

Some landmarks in fetal development 1. Beginning of fetal period – 9th week

- The gut recanalizes, the midgut is herniated into umbilical cord, heart is partitioned, definitive aortic arches are formed, hematopoiesis ongoing in liver, diaphragm formed, ossification begun (clavicle), teeth are cap stage, tail has regressed, external genitalia indifferent, head is half crown rump length, there is a startle response **2. Beginning of the second trimester 12 weeks**
- The midgut no longer herniated, dilute urine by metanephros, liver produces serum albumin, stores glycogen, secretes bile, endocrine glands formed but not fully functional, myelination spinal roots and spinal cord begun, lungs gland like, fetus can hiccup, swallow, gasp, yawn, gender differences visible
- hiccup, swallow, gas, yawn, gender differences visible
 3. Earliest time of possible survival 26-28 weeks
 The gut has developed villi and crypts, peristalsis is present, surfactant secreted in lungs, alveolar walls thinning, hematopoiesis in liver, spleen and bone marrow, coordination of endocrines by pituitary, some myelination in brain, gyri, sulci are forming, fetus responds to sound, is covered by lanugo hair

4. End of fetal development - 38 weeks

The pH of stomach becomes acid, some digestive enzymes present (e.g., lactase), meconium in bowel, hematopoicsis only in bone marrow, testes descended, myelination of corticospinal tracts to level of medulla, lanugo hair replaced with adult hair, vernix caseosa covers the body, fetus can suck, pupillary light reflex present

