Welcome back to *The Genesis of Conception*. My name is Rebekah David. Thank you very kindly for joining me today or tonight, whichever applies for you. This is a podcast in the space between the picket lines where we talk about all things pro-life, but we come at it from a strictly scientific, logical, provable basis.

 On the last episode, we discussed the Science of Fertilization and the basic genetic proof that a pre-born child is human. The next incredibly important step is to understand the basics of prenatal growth and what they entail.

This time, labels are going to be vastly important to the topic at hand. I’ve noticed over my years as a pro-life advocate, that many people genuinely have no idea what terms such as “gestation” , “fetus”, and “embryo” actually entail in regards to growth occurring within the womb. I’m here to say that when my journey began, I did not know those terms either. So today, we clear all that up.

 To get to the root, once again, we start with the science of it all: the trimesters.

 Some very important labels occur during the **1st Trimester of growth**. We know from ClevelandClinic.org that the baby’s first label comes about during something called the **“gestational stage”** which begins on the 1st day of a woman’s last menstrual period before pregnancy. It kicks into gear about two weeks before the 4-step process discussed in my last video occurs. The gestational stage is important since it is what will be used to track how far along the pregnancy is.

During the gestational stage, the baby will very briefly be labeled as a **“blastocyte”** during implantation. By the 3 week mark, the new label for the baby is **“embryo”.** Embryo simply means that the baby is now growing into the shape of a very tiny ball as DNA replication takes place rapidly. At the embryo stage of growth, the baby gains his or her very first nerve cells.

The embryo stage is for weeks 1-8 of development, and then the new label for the child is **“fetus”** which will last until birth, at which point he or she will become known as a **“newborn infant”**.

Something incredibly pivotal to remember is that for the first bit of time in-utero, the growing baby looks nothing like a newborn baby would and sometimes it doesn’t even look human. But please remember that even when someone looks “different” or “disfigured” or “odd”, that does not detract in the least from the fact that they are human, just like you and I. If you need already born examples, think of a horribly disfigured burn victim or war crime victim or abuse victim, to name just a few. Physical appearance cannot alter genetic truth. Now, back to evidence.

Looping back to trimesters, we know - also compliments of ClevelandClinic.org - that in a typical pregnancy, there are **3 separate trimesters.** Each trimester is about 3 months long. In each month, certain very specific and important stages of growth occur, each with their own labels. Additionally, UCSF Health informs us of points of growth throughout the trimesters.

I’ll give broad strokes and then go more in-depth. **Trimester one** (which encompasses the 1st 13 weeks of pregnancy) gives the baby time to develop his or her body structure and organ systems. **Trimester Two** (which is for weeks 14-26) has been dubbed “the golden period” because it sees the end of all the morning sickness and such. During this stage the baby is learning how to move around within the womb and things like thumbprints start to show up. Trimester Three (which lasts from 27-40 weeks) is the final countdown and its where the baby gets much larger physically, so that he or she is multiple pounds upon delivery.

Now, for the deep dive, going month to month. You can find incredible pictures of ever stage on MedMD.org and I will tell you the information attached to them. For the sake of ease, we will name our pre-born child Anne.

Month 1 (4 weeks) - Anne will look kind of like an alien. At this point, her structure has started to develop and the neck and face have emerged. Her heart and blood vessels are developing. Finally, her liver, lungs, and stomach have all begun to form. All of this is made possible because her placenta (which is actually formed during the gestational period) is giving her vital nutrients to survive and thrive. At this point, Anne’s mom will have a positive pregnancy test.

Month 2 (8 weeks) - Anne will still look sort of alien, but her human features are coming into sharper focus. She will be a little over half an inch long. Her ears and eyelids have started to form. You can see the tip of Anne’s nose, the formation of her arms and legs, and the beginnings of growth in her toes and fingers.

Month 3 (12 weeks) - Anne is definitely looking human. She is nearly 2 inches tall and she will start making tiny movements to test her surroundings. Anne’s mom can hear Anne’s heartbeat and Anne’s doctor will be able to guess pretty accurately that Anne is a girl.

Month 4 (16 weeks) - Anne looks totally human and is about 4.5 inches tall. She also weighs about 3.5 ounces. Anne’s heart and blood vessels are well formed and her eyes can blink. Anne’s toes and fingers have now developed their own unique prints that once she is born will be used to identify her unique humanness for the rest of her life.

Month 5 (20 weeks) - Anne weighs about 10 ounces and is about 6 inches tall. Anne can yawn, suck her thumb, make facial expressions and stretch. This is also where Anne’s mom will get an ultrasound picture of her and where the doctor can ensure that Anne’s placenta is functioning correctly. During the ultrasound, gender will be confirmed completely.

Month 6 (24 weeks) - Anne weighs about 1.5 pounds and she can recognize sounds (like her mom’s voice). Anne is even capable of realizing when she is upside down in her little home because her inner ears have fully formed and they help guide directional awareness.

Month 7 (28 weeks) - Anne weighs about 2 pounds, 6 ounces and is completely capable of changing positions in her little home. She can easily be born healthy at this point. This is probably when Anne’s mom will sign up for birthing classes.

Month 8 (32 weeks) - Anne weighs about 4 pounds and she is moving around a whole lot. She is beginning to have her own layers of fat, so from here on out Anne will be adding about half of her birth weight.

Month 9 (week 36 up through birth) - By this point, Anne will be about 18.5 inches tall and she will weigh around 6 pounds. Her brain is fastly developing and her lungs are fully formed. She is ready to meet her mom and the outside world.

So, to recap, for Anne’s 1st 3 weeks of life, she will be known as a **blastocyte.** Then, from week 3 to week 8, the proper term for Anne’s level of growth is **embryo.** At week 8, Anne’s level of growth will put her at being a **fetus** and that is what she will be known as until her mom delivers her, at which point she will be given the label “**newborn baby girl**”. All of those labels are scientifically accurate for a very human child’s level of growth within the womb, but none of them take anything away from her factual humanity as a growing baby girl.

This is the point where I like to encourage. If you or someone you know is facing a crisis pregnancy, I have plenty of resources to guide you to. No judgement, only love and help. You can find me on social media as proudlyprolifegenzwoman, unless you are on FB, in which case I am Bex David (spell out).

For the general populace, I would love to hear your thoughts, your agreements or disagreements, and any prayer requests or praises that you may have.

Next Saturday, we will look at all the proofs of humanity, both scientific and ideological. It truly is incredible once you start delving into the depths of it all.

Until then, be blessed, never forget how much our Creator loves you, and here’s a friendly reminder that you are welcome here no matter what your background or beliefs are. Let’s be pioneers in the space between picket lines together.

Resources:

1. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/7247-fetal-development-stages-of-growth>
2. <https://www.ucsfhealth.org/conditions/pregnancy/trimesters>
3. <https://medmd.org/12-stages-of-baby-developing-in-the-womb/2/>
4. <https://www.liveaction.org/learn/the-problem/prenatal-development-abortion/>