



Day 1

Conception or fertilization: sperm and oocyte unite.

Day 4

The blastocyst forms. The cells separate into placental cells and other cells, the inner cell mass that later forms the fetus. In the laboratory, embryonic stem cells are harvested at about this time from the inner cell mass of the embryo, which is destroyed in the process.

Day 7

The embryo is implanted in the womb.

Day 14

The first nervous system cells are produced. Many embryos die naturally before reaching this stage. In many countries, for example the United Kingdom, this also represents the limit for embryo research. In Germany, destructive embryo research is prohibited.

Week 10

All organs and extremities are already formed. From this stage onward, the embryo is regarded as a fetus. The gender can now be determined.

Week 12

The fetus now makes controlled movements and looks human. It has facial features. In Germany, this is the legal limit of impunity for a termination of pregnancy, with the exception of medical grounds.

Week 18-20

The mother can feel the movements of the fetus.

Week 24

The fetus reacts to light and sounds. Premature births have a chance of survival from this point on.

Week 27

The eyes open.

Week 38-40

The baby is completely developed.

