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200LEVEL

MEDICINE AND SURGERY

DISCUSS SECOND WEEK OF DEVELOPMENT

ANSWERS: The **second week of human development** is concerned with the process of implantation and the differentiation of the blastocyst into early **embryonic** and placental forming structures. It's the week when the embryoblast, extraembryonic mesoderm and trophoblast each separate into two distinct layers. Additionally, there are two cavities that develop within the embryonic unit at this time as well.

important features of the second week is the completion of implantation and establishment of fetomaternal interactions.

Week 2 is about the implantation process and blastocyst differentiation. Note that all cells produced from the initial fertilization event are defined as the "conceptus" and will include cells with both embryonic and extraembryonic futures. In the conceptus, this is a period of blastocyst "hatching" rapid blastocyst differentiation into extraembryonic and embryonic tissues and proliferation. In placental animals, this is the first physical interaction between the conceptus and the maternal uterine wall with adplantation and the commencement of implantaion.