

1) DISCUSS THE SECOND WEEK OF DEVELOPMENT

During the second week of embryonic development three major events occur which are as follows;

- a) Completion of implantation
- b) Formation of bilaminar germ disc
- c) Development of extra embryonic structure

DAY 8

- The blastocyst is partially embedded in the endometrium
- The syncytiotrophoblast will continue to erode the endometrium
- The cells of the cytotrophoblast will continue to divide and migrate to the region of syncytiotrophoblast
- The embryoblast will differentiate into two types of cells; a cuboidal cell called hypoblast and a columnar cell called epiblast. The cells of the epiblast that are adjacent (closer) to the cytotrophoblast are known as amnioblasts and the space between the epiblast (amnioblasts) and the cytotrophoblasts is called amniotic cavity, therefore the epiblasts surround the amniotic cavity.
- It is the epiblast and hypoblast that will give rise to the bilaminar germ disc.

DAY 9

- The blastocyst is deeply embedded in the endometrium , the syncytiotrophoblast will continue erode the endometrium and the cells of the cytotrophoblast will continue to divide and migrate into the region of the syncytiotrophoblast.
- The surface epithelium is closed by fibrin coagulum. The exocoelomic membrane/ heuser's membrane is another membrane that develops adjacent to the cytotrophoblast and it surrounds the exocoelomic cavity or the primary umbilical cavity or primary yolk sac
- Vacuoles develop the region of the syncytiotrophoblast called lacunas, this stage is called syncytiotrophoblast lacunae

DAY 11-12

- The blastocyst is completely embedded in the endometrium as the syncytiotrophoblast continues to erode the region of the endometrium and the cytotrophoblast continues to divide and migrate into the region of the syncytiotrophoblast.
- Ruptured capillaries called sinusoids will begin to appear because as the syncytiotrophoblast erodes into the endometrium, it destroys some structures (blood vessels) causing rupture (spillage of blood). The ruptured maternal sinusoid will communicate with the trophoblastic lacunae by transporting blood and nutrients and oxygen and at this stage a utero-placenta circulation (primordial-utero-placenta circulation) is established.
- A space of mesoderm develops between the region of exocoelomic membrane and cytotrophoblast and also the space between the amnioblast and cytotrophoblast except at a point where the connecting stalk is present. The mesoderm is known as extraembryonic mesoderm. Inside the extraembryonic mesoderm, some cavities known as extraembryonic coelom/ cavity are formed and this cavity divides the mesoderm into two parts. These parts are the extraembryonic somatic mesoderm that lines the cytotrophoblast and amnioblast, the second part is the extraembryonic splanchnic mesoderm and it lines the yolk sac. A reaction known as decidual reaction takes place and this reaction provides nutrition for the developing embryo. The endometrium swells from the accumulation of lipids and glycogen.

DAY 13

- The surface of endometrium is completely covered by surface epithelium
- Occasional bleeding occurs at the site of implantation due to increased blood flow into the lacunae spaces
- The primary yolk sac reduces in size and is known as secondary yolk sac which is also known as definite yolk sac or secondary umbilical vesicle
- The yolk sac although it contains no yolk is necessary for the transfer of nutrients between mother and fetus

- Large portions of the exocoelomic cavity are pinched off to form exocoelomic cysts
- The syncytium covers the primary villi and the cytotrophoblast form folds called primary villi and these folds are covered from cells called syncytium.