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A pregnant woman may experience an increase in the size of the kidneys and ureter due to the increase blood volume and vasculature. Later in pregnancy, the woman might develop physiological hydronephrosis and hydroureter, which are normal.

Pregnancy begins when the developing embryo implants in the endometrial lining of a woman's uterus. Most pregnant women do not have any specific signs or symptoms after implantation, although it is not uncommon to experience minimal bleeding.

After implantation, the uterine endometrium is called the decidua. The placenta, which is partly formed from the decidua and partly from outer layers of the embryo, connects the developing embryo to the uterine wall to allow nutrient uptake, waste elimination, and gas exchange via the mother's blood supply.

The umbilical cord connects the embryo or fetus to the placenta. The developing embryo undergoes tremendous growth and changes during the process of fetal development.

Most pregnant women experience a number of symptoms that

can signify pregnancy. The symptoms include nausea and vomiting, excessive tiredness and fatigue, cravings for certain foods that are not normally sought out, and frequent urination, particularly during the night.

A number of early medical signs are associated with pregnancy. These signs typically appear, if at all, within the first few weeks after conception. Not all of these signs are universally present, nor are all of them diagnostic by themselves; taken together, however, they may make a presumptive diagnosis of pregnancy.

### The First Trimester

The first 12 weeks of pregnancy are known as the first trimester. During this trimester, fetal development can be divided into different stages.

At the beginning of the fetal stage, the risk of miscarriage decreases sharply. All major structures, including the head, brain, hands, feet, and other organs have been formed by the fetal stage. Once pregnancy moves into the second trimester, the risks of miscarriage and birth defects drops drastically.

### The Second Trimester

Weeks 13 to 28 of the pregnancy are called the second trimester. Most women feel more energized in this period. They put on weight as the symptoms of morning sickness subside and eventually fade away.

By the end of the second trimester, the expanding uterus has created a visible baby bump. Although the breasts have

been developing internally since the beginning of the pregnancy, most of the visible changes appear after this point.

The uterus can expand up to 20 times its normal size during pregnancy. Although the fetus begins to move and takes a recognizable human shape during the first trimester, it is not until the second trimester that movement of the fetus, often referred to as quickening, can be felt by the woman.

### The Third Trimester

Final weight gain takes place during the third trimester, and it is the most weight gain throughout the pregnancy. The fetus will be growing most rapidly during this stage, gaining up to 28g per day.