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ANSWER

Implantation is the stage of pregnancy in humans at which the embryo adheres to the wall of the uterus. At this stage of prenatal development, the conceptus is called <u>a blastocyst</u>. It is by this adhesion that the embryo receives oxygen and nutrients from the mother to be able to grow.

In humans, implantation of a fertilized ovum is most likely to occur around nine days after ovulation; however, this can range between six and 12 days, the reception-ready phase of the endometrium of the uterus is usually termed the "implantation window" and lasts about 4 days. The implantation window occurs around 6 days after the peak in luteinizing hormone levels. With some disparity between sources, it has been stated to occur from 7 days after ovulation until 9 days after ovulation, or days 6-10 post ovulation. On average, it occurs during the 20th to the 23rd day after the last menstrual period.

The endometrium increases thickness, becomes vascularized and its glands grow to be tortuous and boosted in their secretions. These changes reach their maximum about 7 days after ovulation. Decidualization succeeds predecidualization if pregnancy occurs. This is an expansion of it, further developing the uterine glands, the zona compacta and the epithelium of decidual cells lining it. The decidual cells become filled with lipids and glycogen and take the polyhedral shape characteristic for decidual cells, implantation is initiated when the blastocyst comes into contact with the uterine wall.