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**Physiology assignment**

**What is implantation during pregnancy?**

Implantation is the window of time during early pregnancy when a cluster of rapidly dividing cells — called a blastocyst — makes its way down the fallopian tube and burrows deep into the lining of the uterus. There, the newly hatched embryo starts releasing hormones that prepare your body for baby, turning off your period, building up the placenta, and possibly making you feel crampy and tired.

Implantation is often described as a window because it occurs about 8 to 9 days after fertilization, though it can happen as early as 6 days and as late as 12 days after ovulation. While many consider fertilization to be the start of pregnancy, successful implantation is the more crucial hurdle.

The signs and symptoms of implantation are your body's way of welcoming you to pregnancy. While many women don't feel anything during the process, others report swollen breasts, light bleeding, and a tender abdomen. Some feel woozy or have headaches.

The difference between implantation symptoms and your period can be confusing. If implantation causes bleeding, chances are it will be light and spotty, and will happen before your period is scheduled to arrive. These symptoms should be minor and are nothing to worry about.

Approximately 15 to 25 percent of women experience light bleeding as a result of implantation. Blood flows when cells shed from the oxygen-rich tissue that lines your uterus during the process. Implantation bleeding will appear days before you expect your menstrual cycle to start, and, compared to your period, will be scant and spotty, starting out pink and turning brown. Unlike your period, it probably won't flow or contain clots, and should stop within a day or two.

Many women don't have any symptoms of implantation, but the subsequent hormonal shifts can cause cramps. While abdominal cramps are never fun, implantation cramps shouldn't be as uncomfortable as those you might get before and during your period. Instead, you might feel a prickly or tingling sensation in your abdomen, as well as light pressure. Check in with your practitioner if you feel intense pain or nausea.

Implantation isn't exactly painful, but very early pregnancy — no matter how joyful — can make you feel sick. Besides cramping, some women report swollen breasts, low energy, headaches and other symptoms. While implantation itself may not be to blame, the cascade of hormonal changes helping your body launch a new life can leave you feeling temporarily weak and woozy.

During pregnancy, a woman's temperature starts to rise and goes up about 1 degree at conception, remaining elevated throughout her pregnancy. If your temperature drops back down, it could mean that your period is on its way, implantation didn't occur, and you're not pregnant.

Implantation is an important but easy-to-miss event. It often masquerades as your period, causing discomfort to mild pain, swollen breasts and abdomen, and headaches. If any of these symptoms persist and you are wondering whether or not you are actually pregnant, take a home pregnancy test or see your practitioner for confirmation.