

# EMBRYOLOGY

LECTURE

#2

## Fertilization & Implantation





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The objectives	2
Fertilization	3
Cleavage of zygote	5
Implantation	7
Formation of Chorionic villi	10
Possible implantation sites and corresponding condition	11
Timeline	12
Multiple choices questions	13

# OBJECTIVES

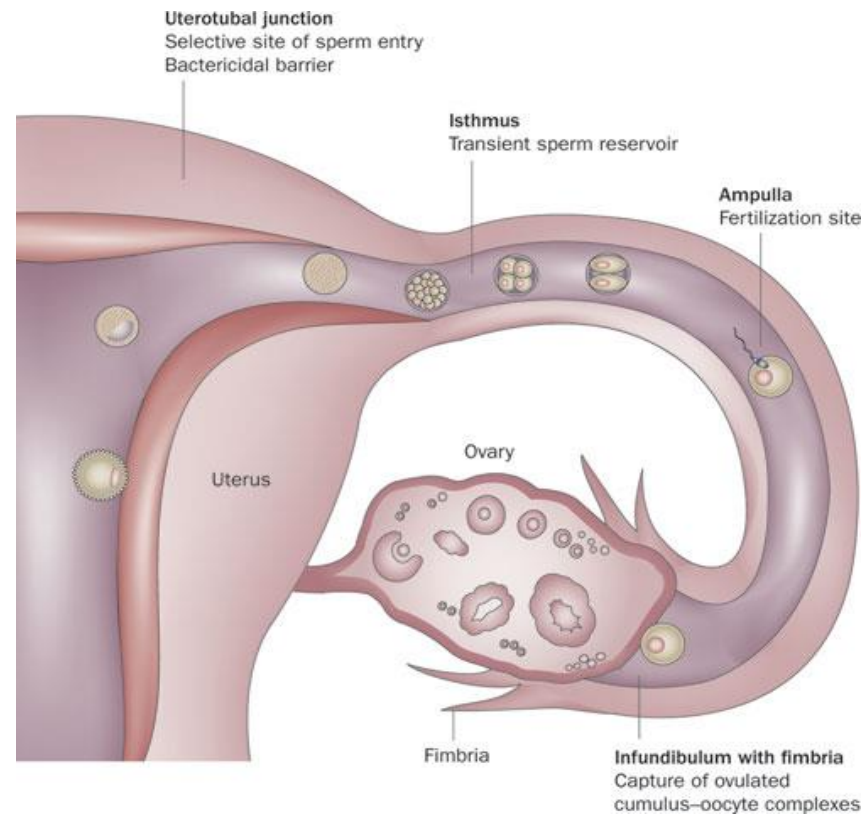
*By the end of the lecture, you should be able to:*

- ❖ Define fertilization and its site.
- ❖ List the phases of fertilization.
- ❖ Describe the results of fertilization.
- ❖ Describe the formation of blastocyst.
- ❖ Identify implantation and its site.
- ❖ Describe the mechanism of implantation.
- ❖ Describe the formation of primary chorionic villi.
- ❖ List the sites of ectopic pregnancy.

# #Fertilization :



- ❖ Definition: a male gamete (**sperm**) + a female gamete (**oocyte**) = a single cell called the (**ZYGOTE**).
- It is a complex process which begins with a **contact** between the sperm & ovum and it Ends up with **intermingling (mixing)** of the maternal and paternal chromosomes.
- ❖ Site of Fertilization: **Usually** in the **ampulla** (the widest part of the tube) of uterine tube.
- **Fertilization** may occur in any other part of tube. **But Never occurs in the uterine cavity.**
- **Chemical signal** (from oocyte) attracts the sperms.



## ❖ Phases of fertilization:

**Passage**  
**Passage** of the sperm through the cells of the **corona radiata** by:

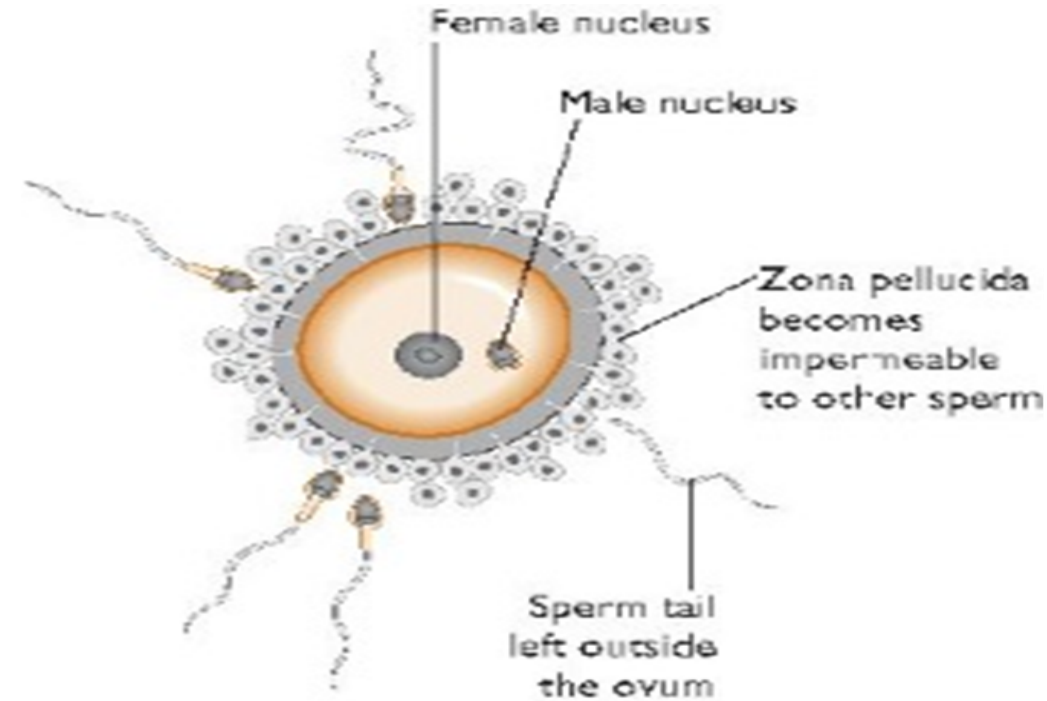
- Hyaluronidase enzyme secreted from the sperms.
- By movement of its tail.

**Penetration**  
**Penetration** of the **zona pellucida** by **acrosine** (a substance secreted from **acrosomal cap**).

**Fusion**  
**Fusion** of the plasma membranes of the oocyte and the sperm.

**Completion**  
**Completion** of the second meiotic division of the oocyte & **formation** of the **female pronucleus**.

**Formation**  
**Formation** of the **male pronucleus**.



## Results of Fertilization:

- 1) **Stimulates** the penetrated oocyte to complete its 2<sup>nd</sup> meiotic (which was arrested at metaphase) division.
- 2) **Restores the diploid number** of the chromosomes.
- 3) **Determines the sex** of the embryo.
- 4) **Beginning of cleavage** (cell division) of the zygote.

## Sex of the Embryo:

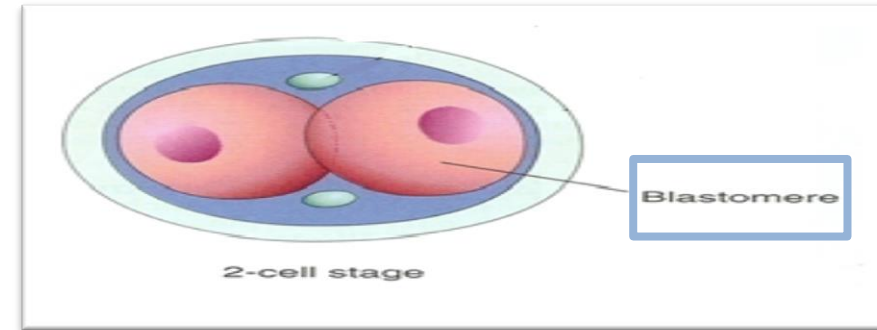
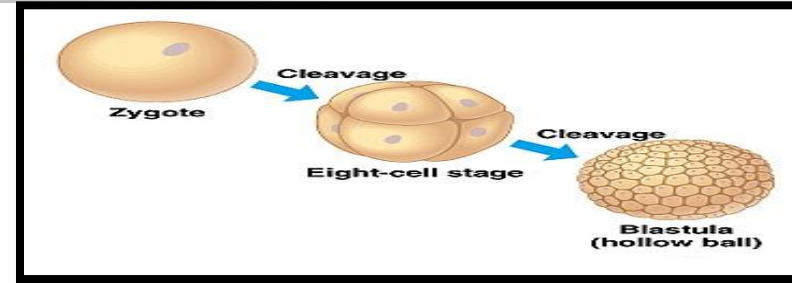
- Embryo's sex is determined at the time of fertilization.
- Sex is determined by the type of sperm, (**X or Y**) that fertilizes the oocyte.
  - So the **father's gamete** decides the sex.
- **Zonal reaction**: it is a change in properties of zona pellucida that makes it **impermeable (closed)** to other sperms.

## Chromosomes:

- $\frac{1}{2}$  of its **chromosomes** comes from the father and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  comes from the mother.
  - This mechanism forms **biparental inheritance** and leads to variation of the human species.



# #Cleavage of zygote



**●Defenition:**

repeated mitotic divisions of the zygote.

**●Place:**

Normally occurs in the **uterine (fallopian) tube**.

**●Function:**

Rapid increase in the number of the cells.

**●Result:**

smaller embryonic cells are now called, **Blastomeres**.

**●Time:**

It begins about **30** hours after fertilization

**●Direction:**

It migrates in the uterine tube during cleavage from **lateral to medial**.

**○Remember:**

-Zygote lies within the thick **zona pellucida** during cleavage.

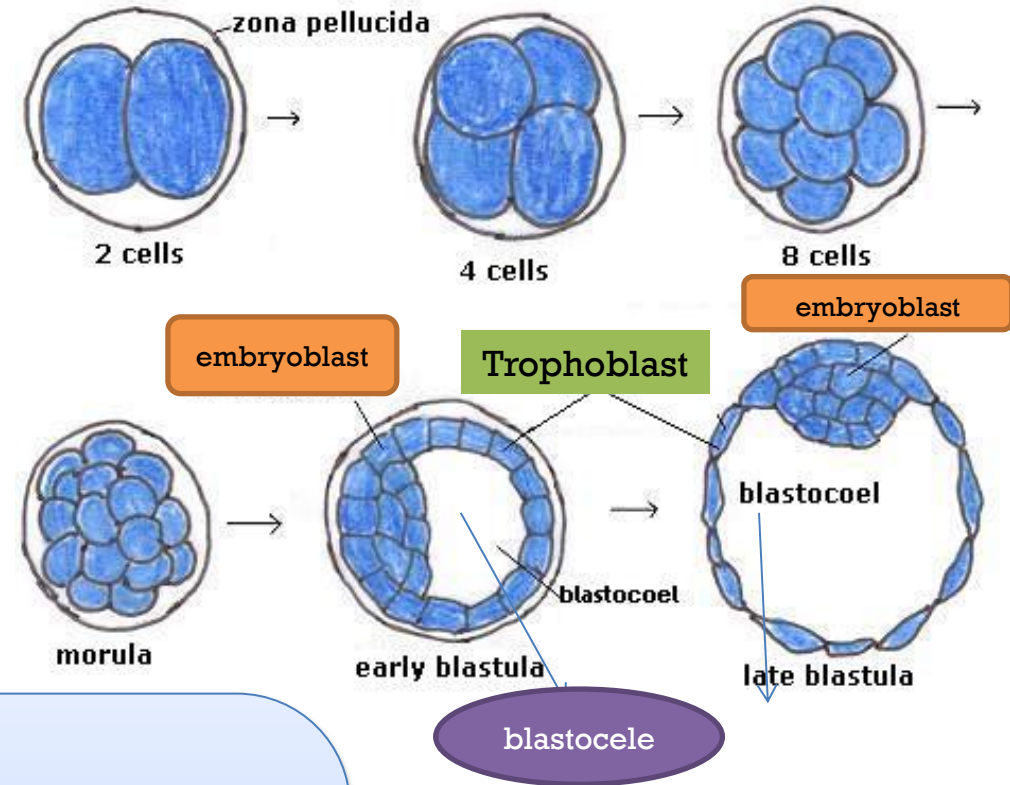
-Zygote divides into 2, then 4, then 8, then 16 Cells.

-Zonapellucida is translucent membrane under the light microscope.

## ❖ Morula:

When there are 16-32 blastomeres the developing human, is called **MORULA**.

- it formed about 3 days after fertilization.
- It resembles mulberry or blackberry.
- The **Morula** reaches the uterine cavity at this stage in the **4<sup>th</sup> day**.



## ❖ Blastocys:

Morula develops into blastocyst when The Blastocystic **cavity** (**blastocele**) appears (due to Fluid passage from uterine cavity to the morula ) and divides the morula into:

- (1) Outer cell layer (**Trophoblast**) and
- (2) inner cell layer mass (**embryoblast**) or the embryonic pole.



# #IMPLANTATION:

## ❖ Definition:

It is the process by which the Blastocyst penetrates the **superficial** (Compact) layer of the endometrium of the uterus.

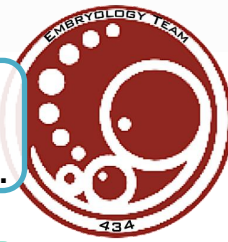
## ❖ Site:

**in the posterior wall of the uterus near the fundus.**

## ❖ Time:

**starts** in : the 6<sup>th</sup> day after fertilization

**completed** in the : 11th -12th day



- 4<sup>th</sup> day**
  - The Morula reaches the uterine cavity after fertilization and remains free for one or two days.
  - Fluid passes from uterine cavity to the Morula.
  - Now the Morula is called **Blastocyst**, its cavity is called blastocystic cavity, its cells divided into Embryoblast&Trophoblast.
- 5<sup>th</sup> day**
  - **Zona pellucida** degenerates & disappears to allows the **blastocyst** to increase in size and penetrates the endometrium.
- 6<sup>th</sup> day**
  - **Blastocyst begins implantation by the 6<sup>th</sup> day.**
  - the blastocyst *adheres* to the endometrium
  - Trophoblast cells penetrate the epithelium of the endometrium (with the help of proteolyticenzymes(eg.COX-2) which is produced by the **trophoblast**.
- 7<sup>th</sup> day**
  - **Trophoblast differentiated into 2 layers:**
  - a) **Cytotrophblast**, inner layer, mitotically active.
  - B)**Syncytiotrophblast**(outer multinucleated mass, with indistinct cell boundary) It erodes the endothelial lining of the maternal capillaries which are known as sinusoids with finger-like processes.
- 8<sup>th</sup>**
  - the blastocyst is superficially embedded in the compact layer of the endometrium
- 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - blood filled **lacunae** appears in the Syncytiotrophoblast that communicate forming a network.
- 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - blood of maternal capillaries reaches the lacunae so, **Uteroplacental circulation** is established



## ❖ Blood filled lacunae:

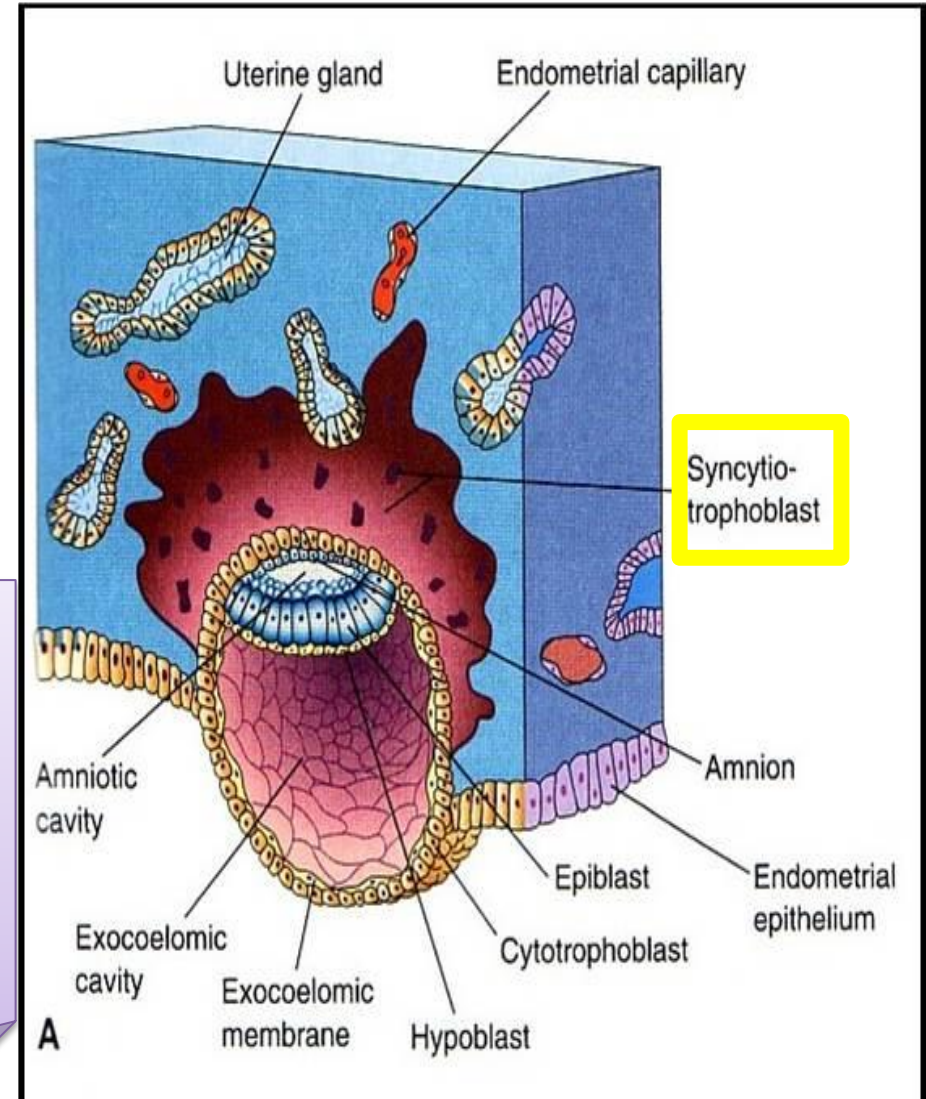
- appear in the **Syncytiotrophoblast** which communicate with each other forming a network by the **10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> day**.
- Now, blood of maternal capillaries reaches the lacunae **Uteroplacental circulation** is established by 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> day.

## ❖ Remember:

-Endometrial cells undergo **apoptosis** (programmed cell death) to facilitate invasion of endometrium by the Syncytiotrophoblast which engulf these degenerated cells for nutrition of the embryo.

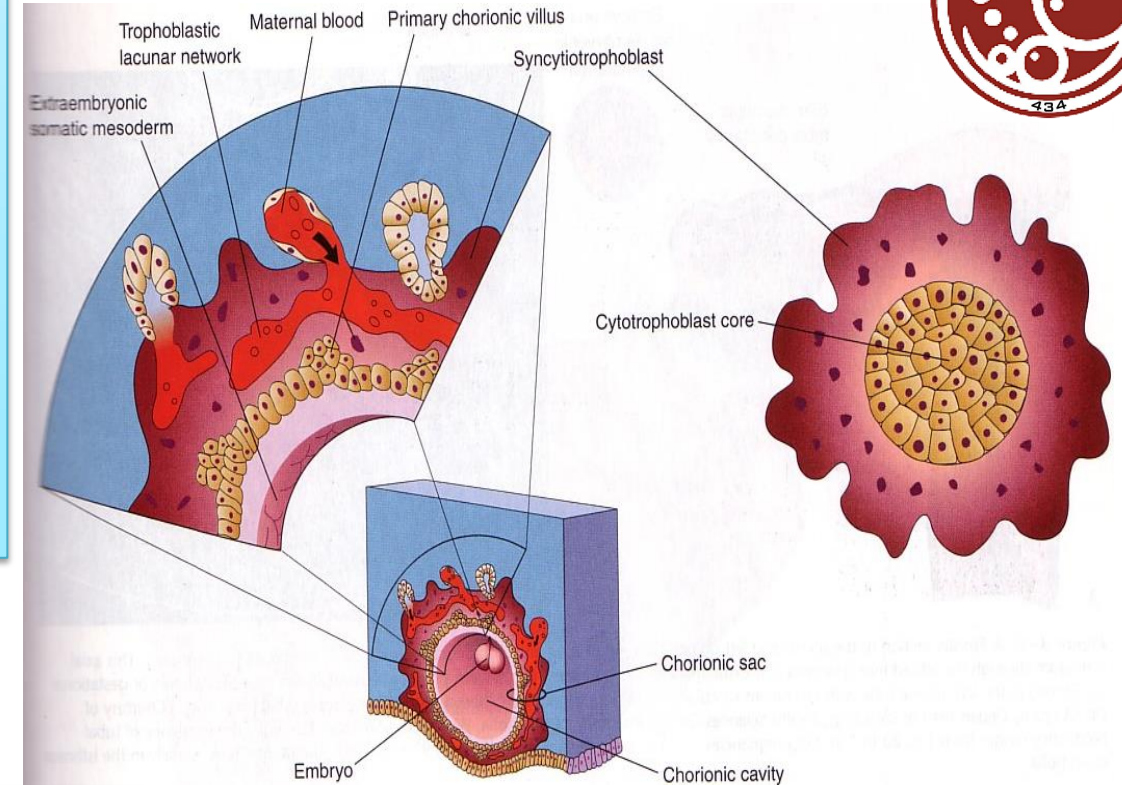
-Implantation can be detected by:

- 1- Ultrasound
- 2- hCG (human chorionic gonadotrophin which is secreted by the Syncytiotrophoblast) about the **end** of 2<sup>nd</sup> week.



## ❖ Early pregnancy factor:

- Is an immunosuppressant protein.
- Secreted by trophoblast cells.
- Appears in maternal serum within 24--48 hrs.
- It is the basis for **EPT** (Early pregnancy test) in the first **10** days of development.



*Proliferation: Rapid increase in number.*

*Immunosuppressant:*

*مثبط مناعي*

## ❖ **Formation of The Primary Chorionic villi:**

By the 13<sup>th</sup> day *Proliferation* of Cytotrophblast cells produce extension inside the **Syncytiotrophoblast** to form the primary chorionic villi.



# #Possible implantation sites and corresponding condition:

## ❖ Ectopic Pregnancy:

-It means implantation outside the uterine cavity.

-95 to 97% of ectopic pregnancies occurs in the uterine tube. Most are in the ampulla & isthmus.

## -Placenta previa:

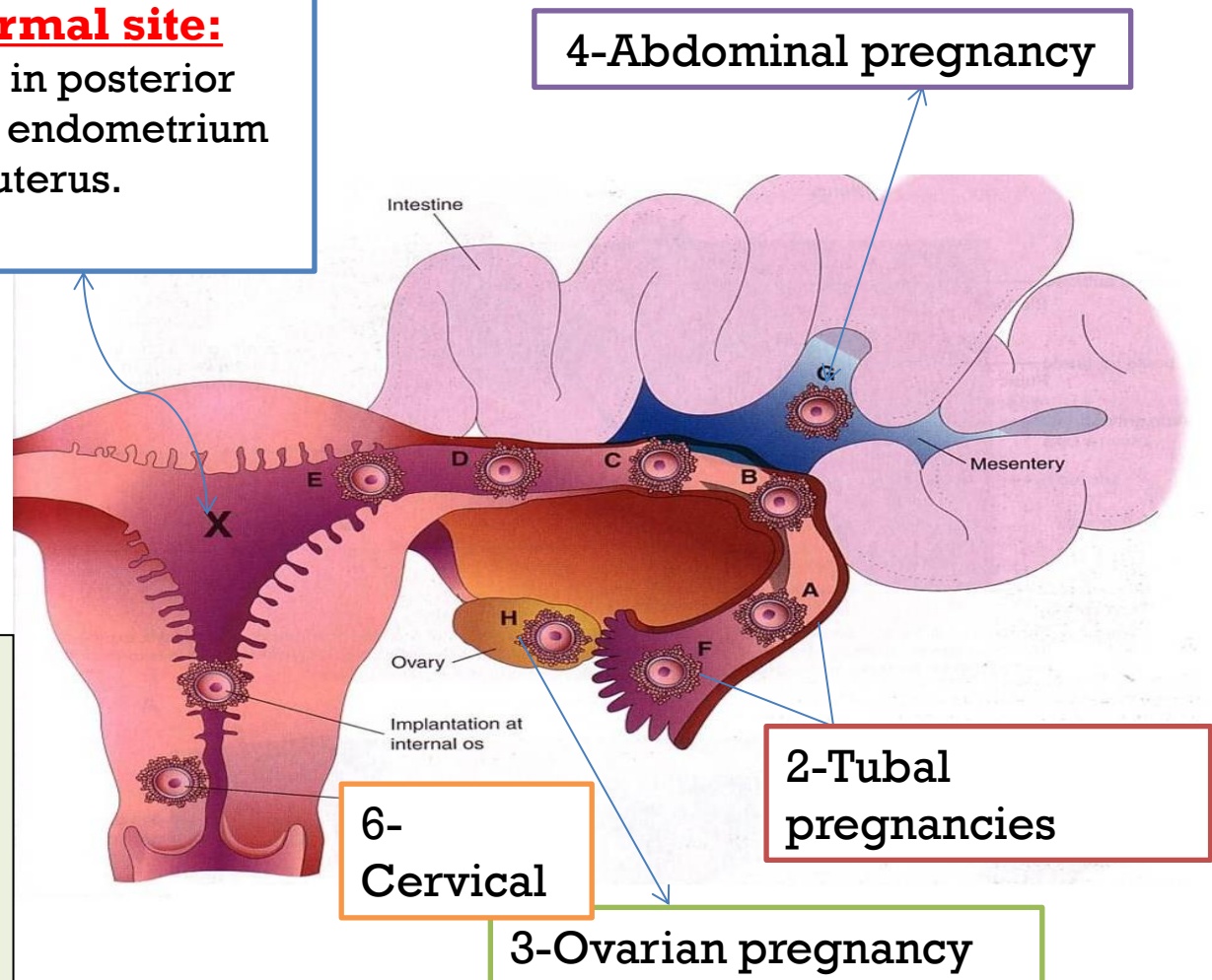
Implantation occurs in the lower uterine segment.

## ❖ Normal site:

occurs in posterior wall of endometrium of the uterus.

## Ectopic Pregnancy:

- 1- Placenta Previa.
- 2- Tubal.
- 3- Ovarian.
- 4- Abdominal.
- 5- Pelvic.
- 6- Cervical.



4-Abdominal pregnancy

2-Tubal pregnancies

6-Cervical

3-Ovarian pregnancy



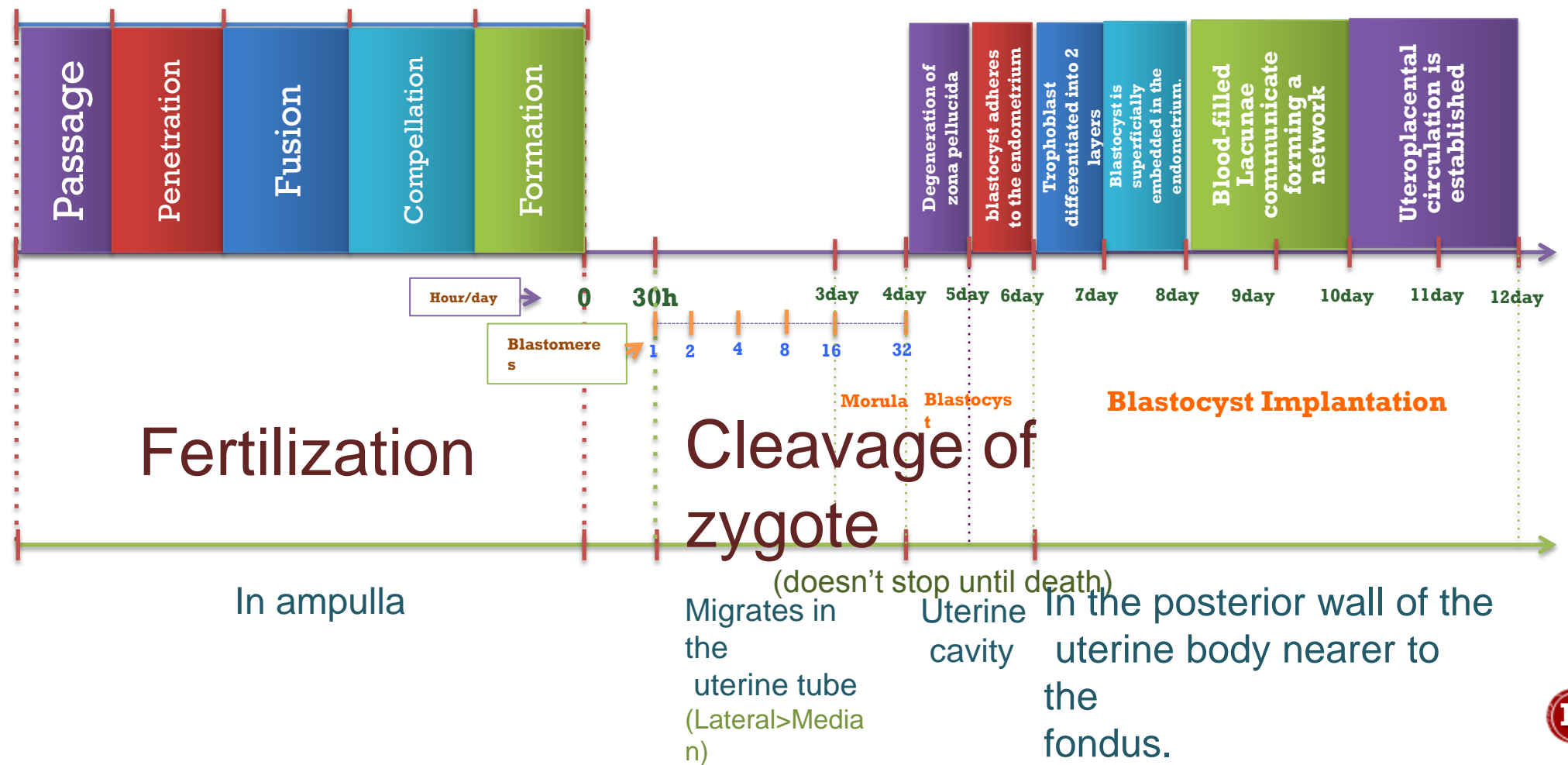
# Fertilization Implantation

Phases

Luteal Phases

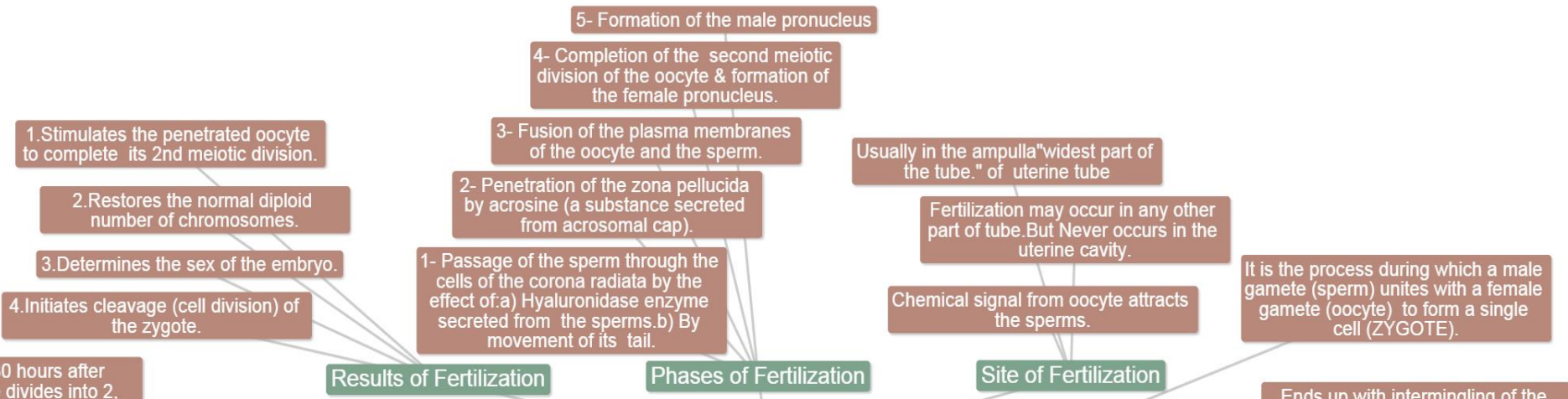
Time Line

Location



# FERTILIZATION & IMPLANTATION AND TWINNING

## FERTILIZATION



## Results of Fertilization

1. Stimulates the penetrated oocyte to complete its 2nd meiotic division.
2. Restores the normal diploid number of chromosomes.
3. Determines the sex of the embryo.
4. Initiates cleavage (cell division) of the zygote.

## Cleavage of Zygote

It begins about 30 hours after fertilization. Zygote divides into 2, then 4, then 8, then 16 cells. Zygote lies within the thick zona pellucida during cleavage. Zygote migrates in the uterine tube during cleavage from lateral to medial. Under the microscope, the zona pellucida is a translucent membrane

It is the repeated mitotic divisions of the zygote. Normally occurs in the uterine tube. Rapid increase in the number of the cells. These smaller embryonic cells are now called, Blastomeres.

## Ectopic Pregnancy

It means implantation outside the uterine cavity. 95 to 97% of ectopic pregnancies occurs in the uterine tube, Most are in the ampulla & isthmus

## Early Pregnancy Factor

Is an immunosuppressant protein. Secreted by trophoblast cells. Appears in maternal serum within 24-48 hrs., after fertilization, It is the basis for EPT (Early pregnancy test) in the first 10 days of development

## IMPLANTATION

## BLASTOCYST

A cavity appears within the morula dividing its cells into 2 groups: Outer cell layer called trophoblast. Inner cell layer (mass) called Embryoblast attached to one of the poles of the blastocyst. The cavity is called blastocystic cavity or blastocele.

## Morula

When there are 16-32 blastomeres the developing human is called MORULA. The Morula reaches the uterine cavity at this stage. Spherical Morula is formed about 3 days after fertilization. It resembles mulberry or blackberry.

## Definition

It is the process by which the Blastocyst penetrates the superficial (Compact) layer of the endometrium of the uterus.

## Site

in posterior wall of the body of the uterus near the fundus.

## Time

It begins about the 6th day after fertilization. It is completed by the 11th or 12th day.

## Mechanism

The Morula reaches the uterine cavity by the 4th day after fertilization, & remains free for one or two days.

Now the Morula is called Blastocyst, its cavity is called blastocystic cavity, its cells divided into Embryoblast & Trophoblast.

By the 5th day the Zona pellucida degenerates.

Blastocyst begins implantation by the 6th day.

Trophoblast cells penetrate the epithelium of the endometrium.

Penetration results from proteolytic enzymes (eg. COX-2) produced by the trophoblast

By 6th day the blastocyst adheres to the endometrium (A).

By 7th day, Trophoblast differentiated into 2 layers: 1. Cytotrophoblast, inner layer, mitotically active. 2. Syncytiotrophoblast (outer multinucleated mass, with indistinct cell boundary).

By 8th day the blastocyst is superficially embedded in the compact layer of the endometrium.



# MULTIPLE CHOICES QUESTIONS

1. (16-32) embryonic cells are called:

- a. Blastomeres.
- b. Blastocyst.
- c. Zona pellucida.
- d. Morula.

3. Early pregnancy factor is secreted by:

- a. Chorionic villi.
- b. Zona pellucida.
- c. Embryoblast .
- d. Syncytiotrophoblast

5. Regarding implantation all of the following are true, EXCEPT:

- a. The blastocyst implants at its embryonic pole.
- b. The cytotrophoblast erodes the endometrial tissues.
- c. The implantation of the blastocyst can be detected by ultrasonography as early as the end of the second week.
- d. The syncytiotrophoblast secretes human chorionic gonadotrophin hormone.

3. Blastocyst begins implantation by the \_\_ day after fertilization.

- a. 4th day
- b. 6<sup>th</sup> day
- c. 10-12th day
- d. 1st day

4. Normal implantation site is:

- a. Ovary
- b. Abdominal
- c. Utrinetube
- d. posterior wall of endometrium of the utters

6. Which hormone can detect pregnancy in the mother's urine by the 2nd week?

- a. Progesterone.
- b. Early pregnancy factor.
- c. Human chorionic gonadotrophin.
- d. Estrogen

## QUIZ LINKS

<http://www.onlineexambuilder.com/fertilization-and-implantation/exam-8467>

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