MUNI MED

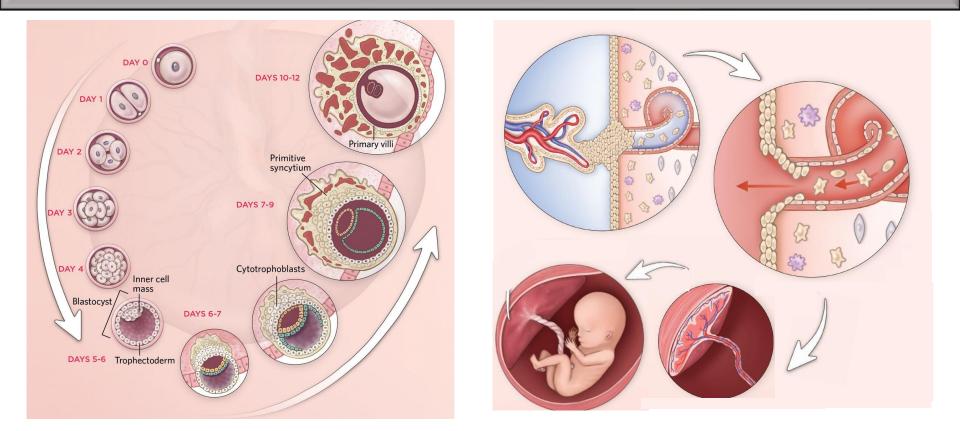
Embryology III PERIMPLANTATION DEVELOPMENT

autumn 2024

Placentation and establishment of pregnancy

Zuzana Holubcová Department of Histology and Embryology zholub@med.muni.cz

Embryo nutrition



1) Cytotrophic nutrition

- from conception (D0) to D10 pc
- use of maternal cellular sources
- quite metabolism

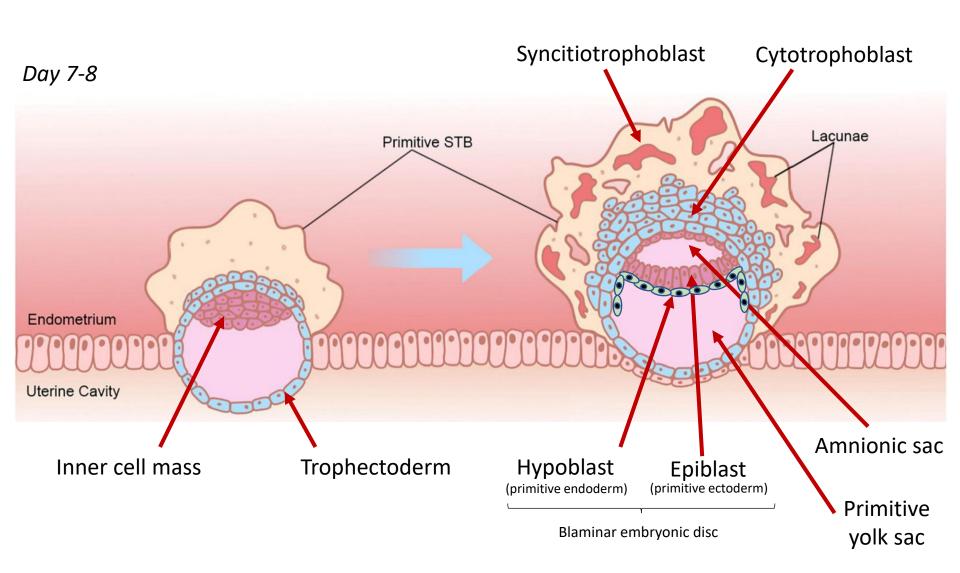
2) Histiotrophic nutrition

- D11 pc -12 wg
- nutritients obtained from maternal uterine gland secretions
- glycolysis, low 0₂ environment

3) Hemotrophic nutrition

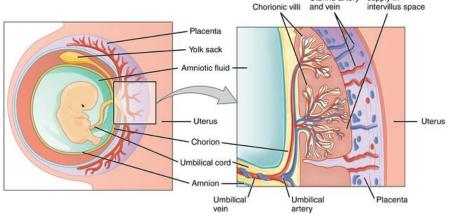
- 12 wg to term
- nutritients obtained from maternal blood
- oxidative phosphorylation

Perimplantation stage



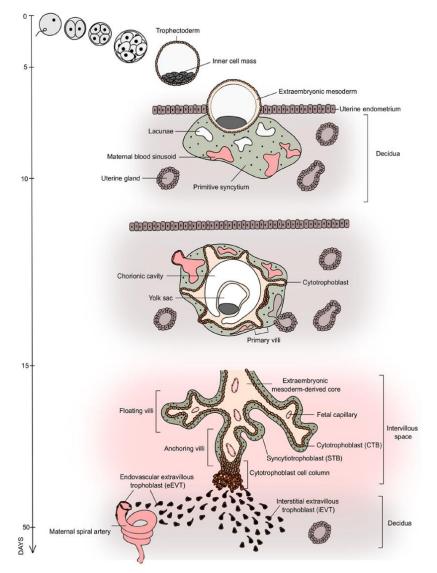
Placentation

- establishing of a stable maternal-fetal interface in specialized ephemeric organ
 = placenta
- contribution of both maternal and fetal cells

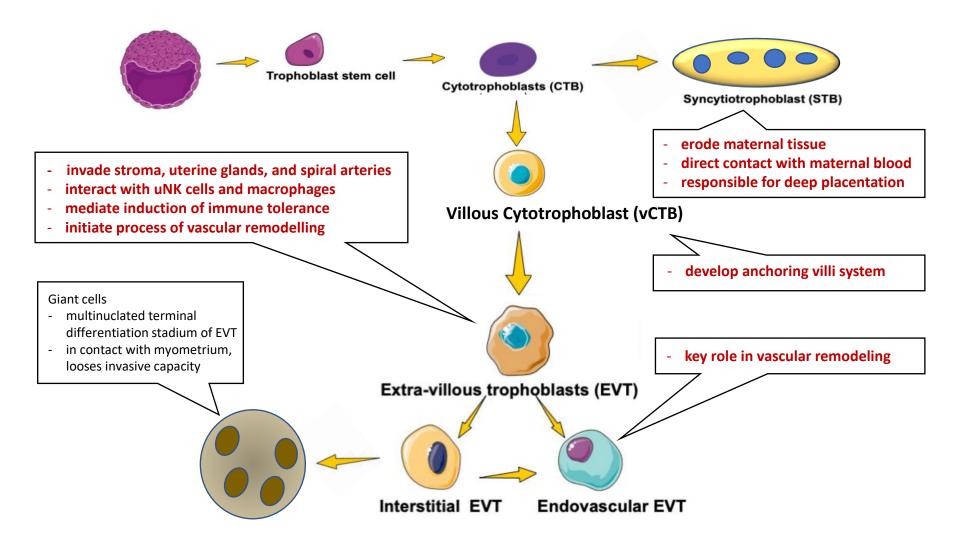


Key steps of placenta development:

- 1) Trophoblast differentiation and invasion
- Developing of chorionic villi (branching and angiogenesis)
- 3) Angiogenesis and remodeling of maternal vasculature



Trophoblast differentiation



Development of chorionic villus

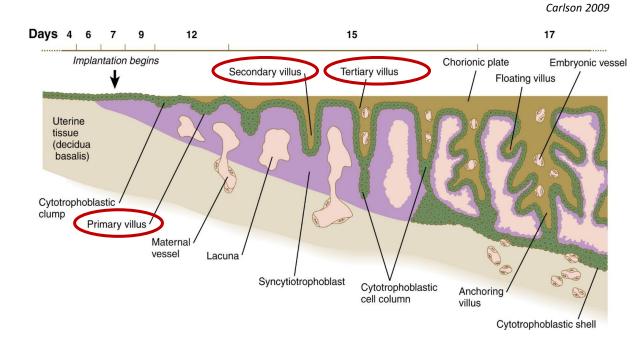
Villous cytotrophoblast

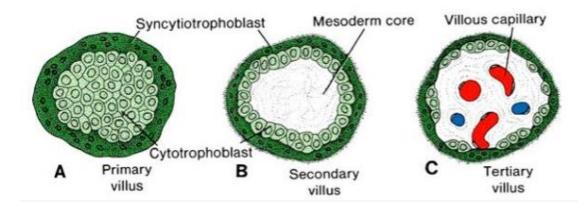
 proliferative CTB cells make protrusions penetrating primitive syncitium

primary villi

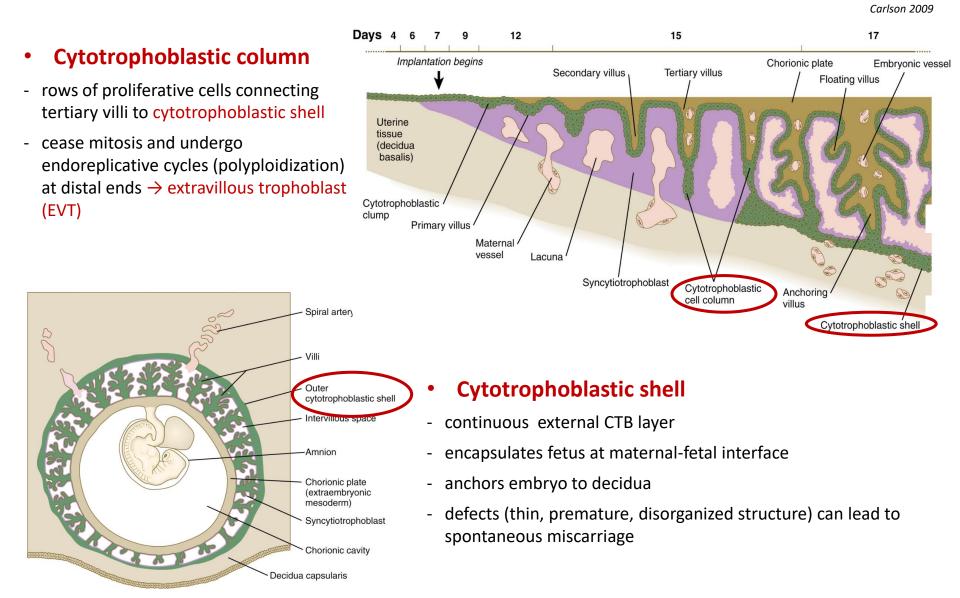
+ branching and infiltration by hypoblast-derived extraembryonic mesoderm (ExM)



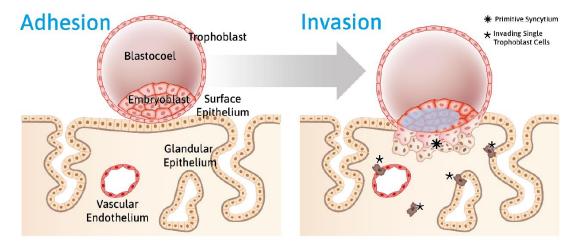




Development of chorionic villus

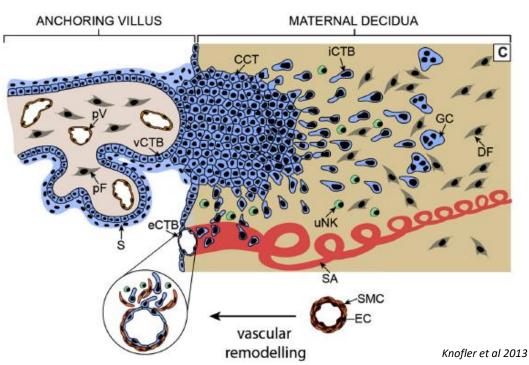


Development of chorionic villus



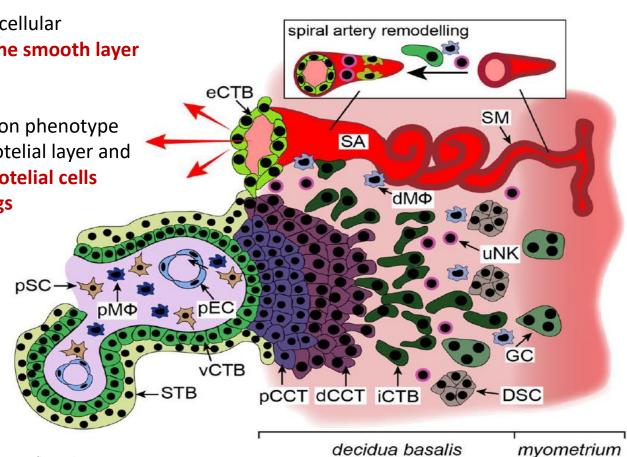
Sternberg et al 2021

- Extravillous trophoblasts (EVTs)
- $\leftarrow \text{ differentiation of villous CTB}$
- single cells detaching from tips of anchoring villi (cell column trophoblas)
- migrate through stroma and invade uterine glands, and spiral arteries

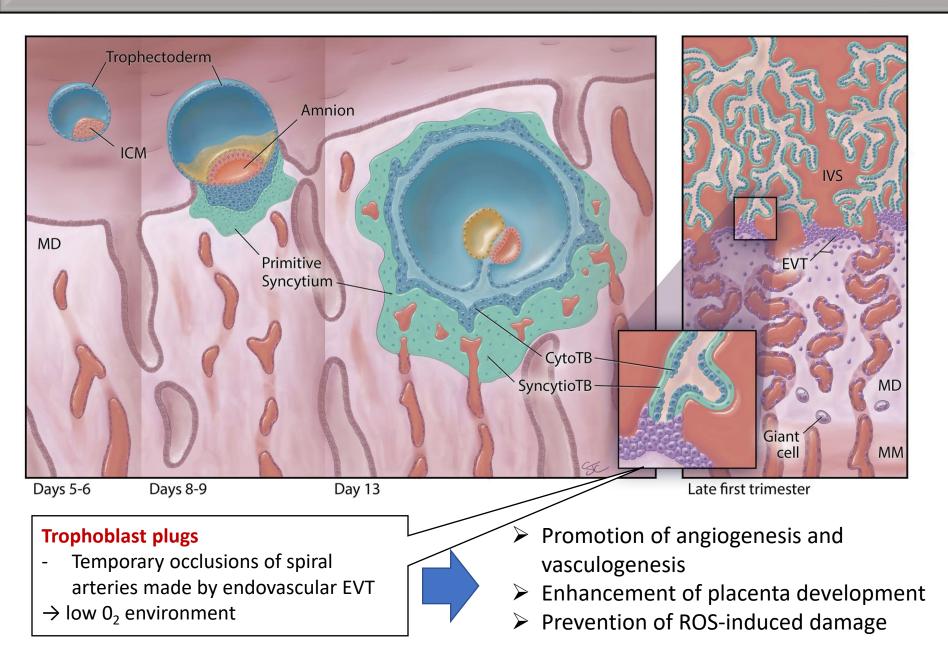


Vascular remodeling

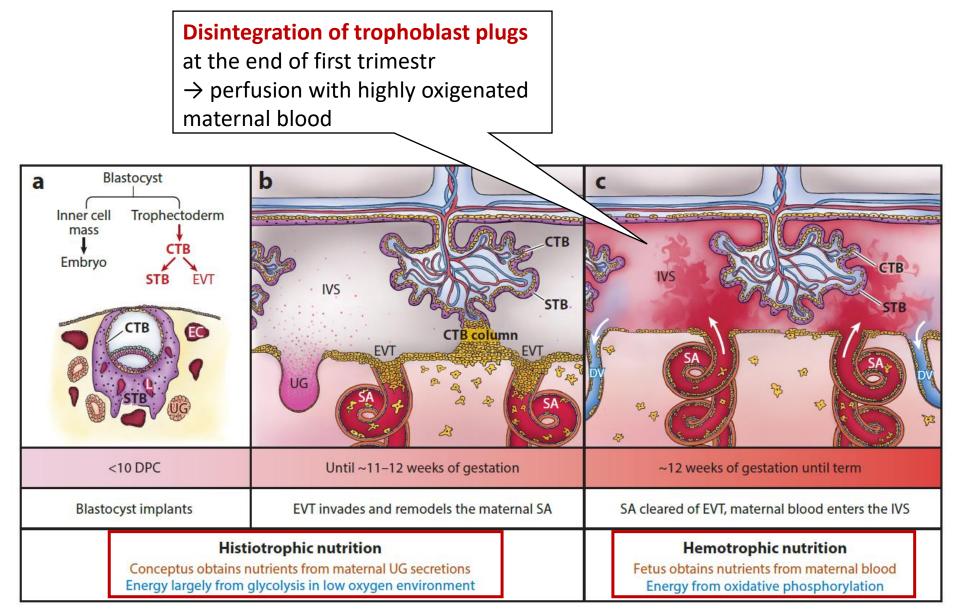
- transformation of narrow high-resistence maternal vessels to highly dilated low resitence conduits
- iEVT
 - induce apoptosis and cellular
 dedifferentiation of the smooth layer
- eEVT
 - adopt vascular adhesion phenotype
 - interdigitate into endotelial layer and replace maternal endotelial cells
 - form trophoblast plugs



Vascular remodeling

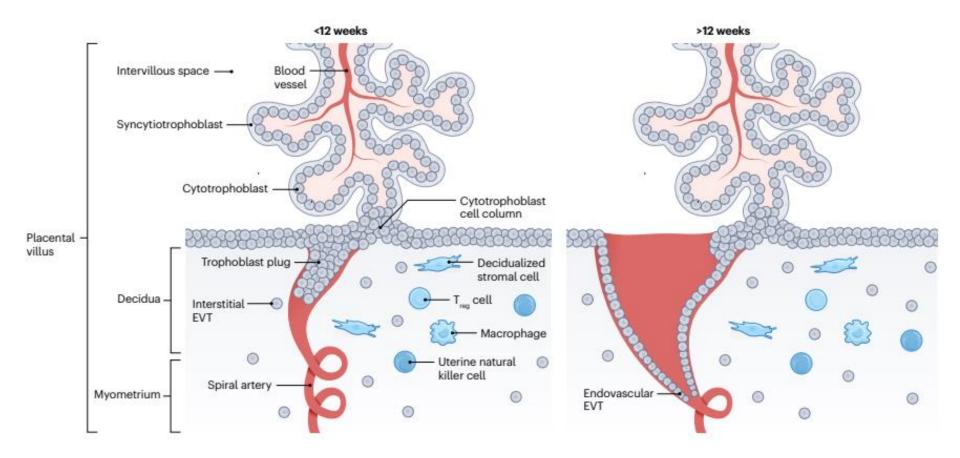


Vascular remodelling



Vascular remodeling

- during the first trimester of pregnancy, narrow, high resistance and low capacity uterine spiral arteries are transformed to wide, high-flow an low resistance vessels capable to provide hemotrophic nutrition during later stages of pregnancy

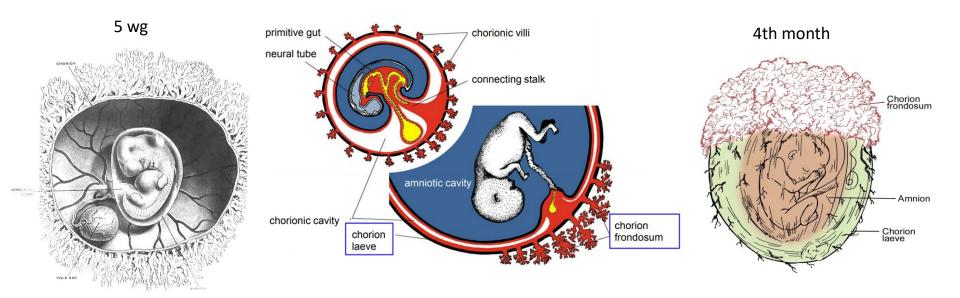


- vessel dilatation: 0.25 \rightarrow 2-3 mm (3x \uparrow 0₂ tension)

Chorion

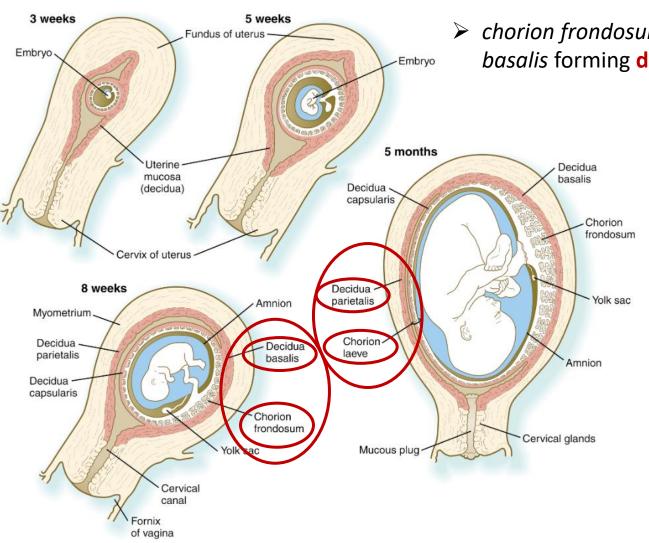
= chorionic vesicle

- layer encapsulating embryo
- consist from trophoblast cells and extraembryonic mesoderm



- primary and secondary villi project uniformly from entire outer surface
- > tertiary villi formed asymmetrically, preferentially close to *decidua basalis*
 - villi at embryonic pole grow and branch (*chorion frondosum*)
 - villi at abembryonic pole atrophy (*chorion leave*)

Chorion

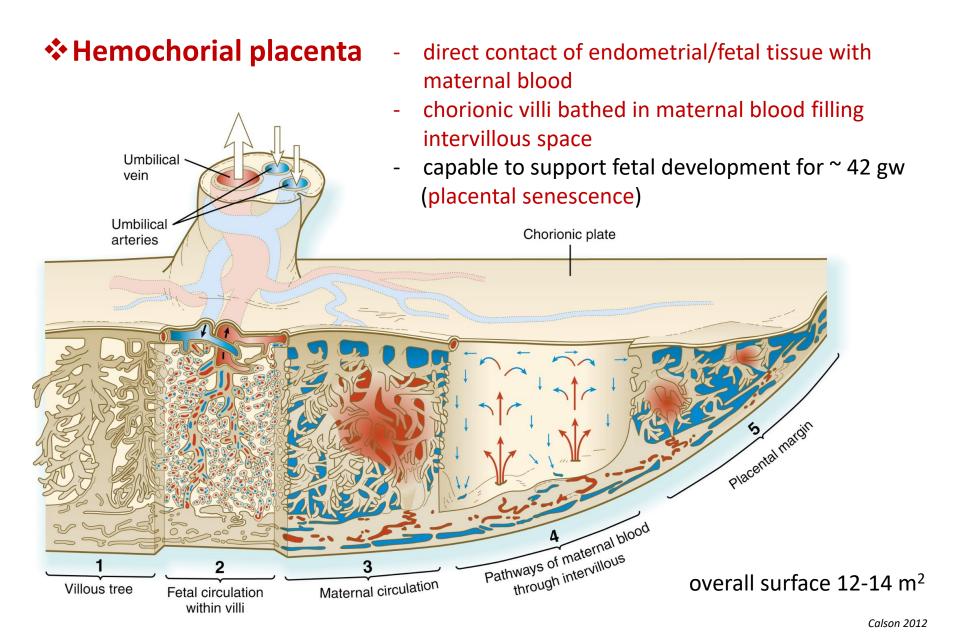


chorion laeve fuses with decidua parietalis

 chorion frondosum fuses with decidua basalis forming discoid placenta



Uteroplacental circulation



Function of placenta

Oxigenation

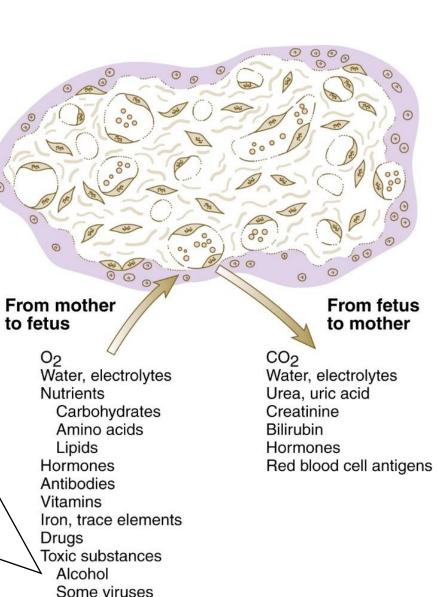
Nutrition

- Excretion
- Immunity
- Endocrine function
 - hCG, hPL

Anabolism

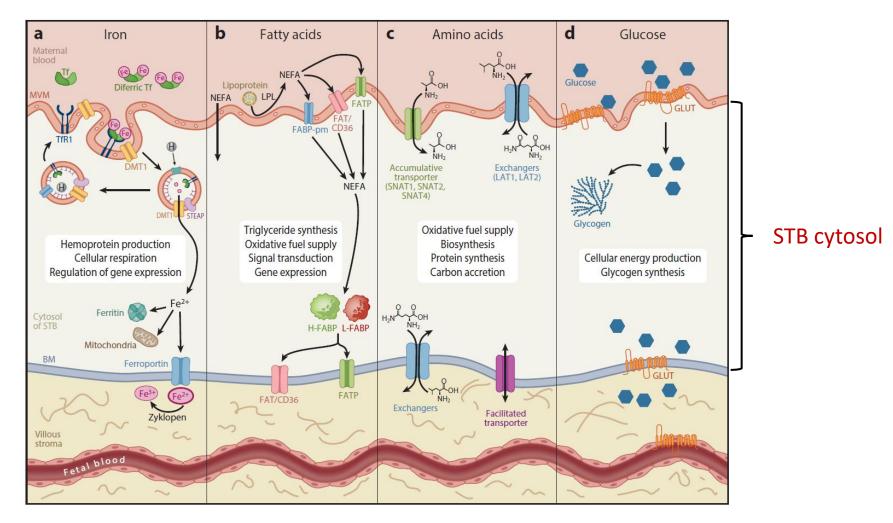
(glycogen, cholesterol, fatty acids)

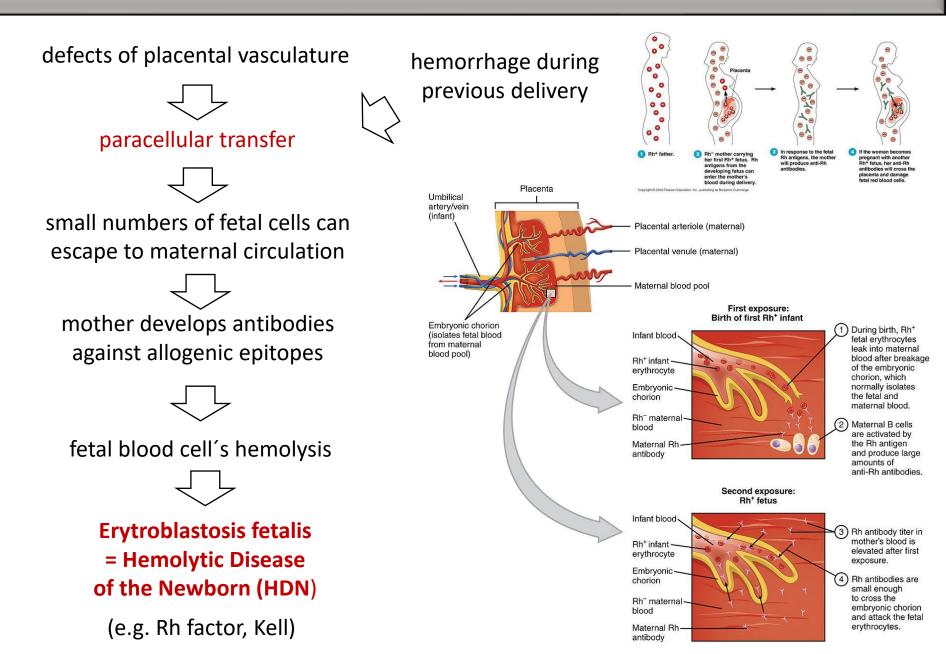




- prevents direct contact of maternal and fetal blood cells 1st trimestr 3rd trimestr - basal lamina (ECM) - basal lamina (ECM) discontinuous CTB layer beneath - cytotrophoblast (CTB) forms a thin STB cytoplasmic layer continous layer beneath the syncithiotrophoblast (SCT) Maternal blood Fetal blood Connective tissue Placental barrier Connective tissue pFEC Fetal pFEC Macrophage blood Stromal cell CTB STB Basal lamina Macrophage STB Basal lamina Placental CTB Maternal blood Stromal cell barrier

- transcellular gradient transfer across STB syncitium via facilitated diffusion





- defects in placental vasculature

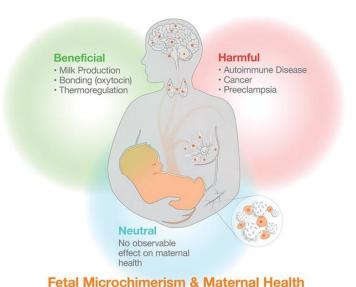


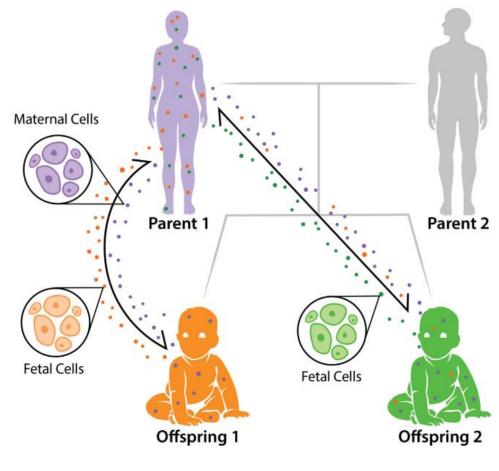
small numbers of fetal cells can escape to maternal circulation



Microchimerism

= presence of cells from one individual in another genetically distinct individual

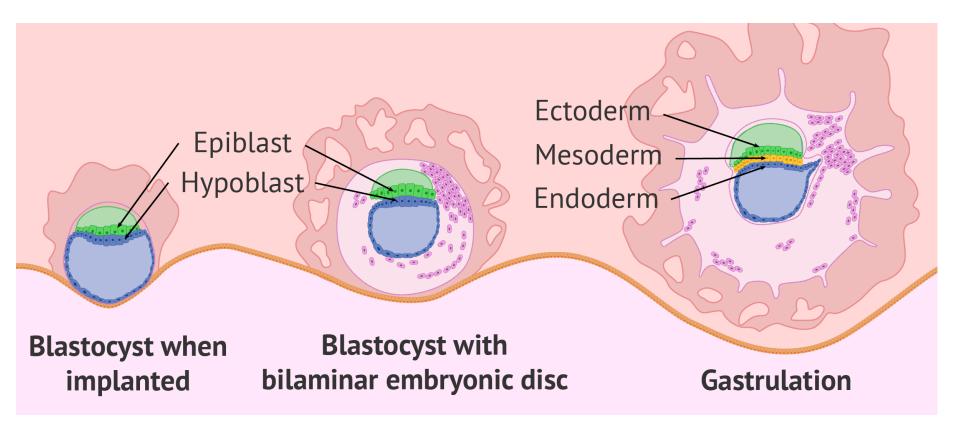




Boddy et al 2015

- bi-directional cell trafficing between fetus and mother during pregnancy
- positive and negative effects

Peri-implantation embryo

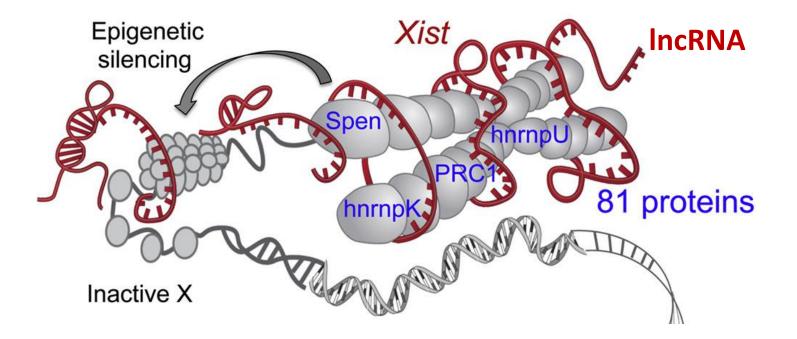


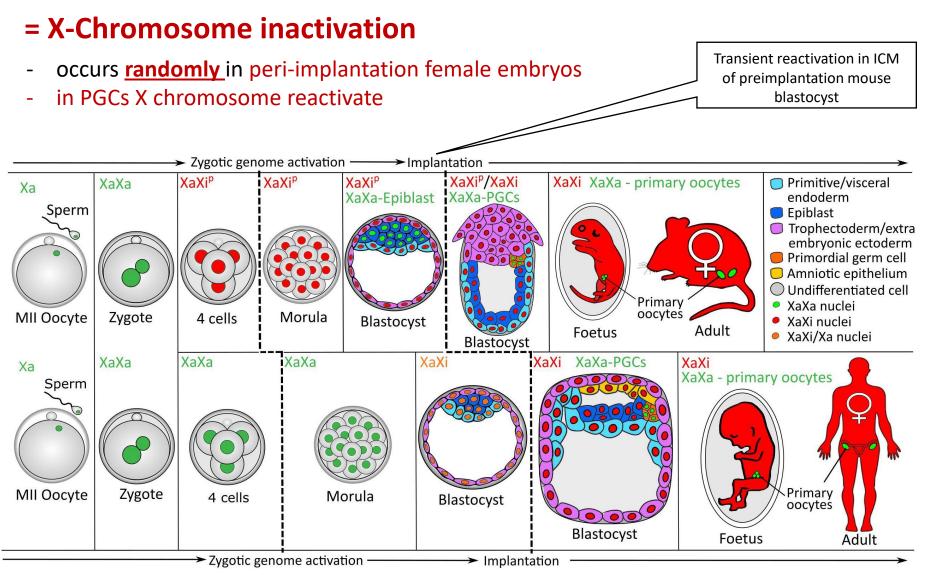
= X-Chromosome inactivation

- one of the X chromosomes in female embryos is packed into transcriptionaly inactive heterochromatin

- demethylation of X-inactivation center on X-chromosome (XIST)

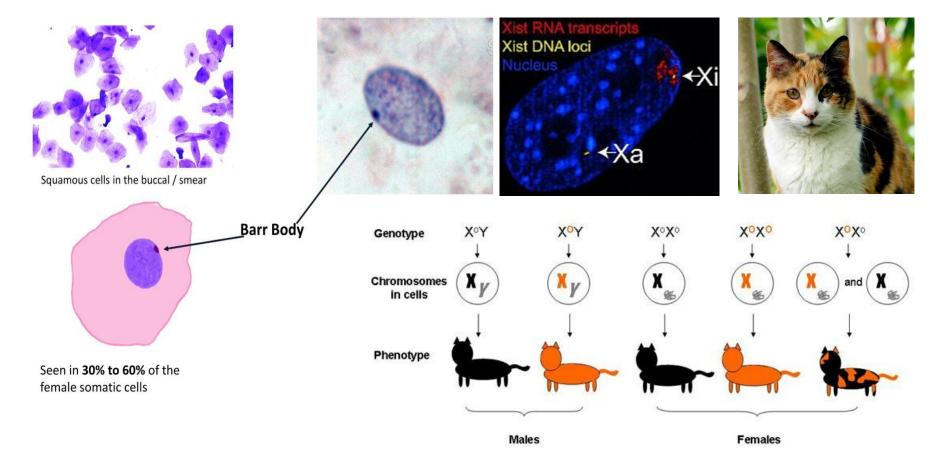
→ translation of long non-coding RNA (IncRNA) that coats the entire X chromosome and associates with chromatin remodelling proteins inducing epigenetic silencing of genes encoded on one of the two X chromosomes in female cells





= X-Chromosome inactivation

- dosage compensation of X-coded genes between female and male cells
- influences severity of X-linked diseases in females



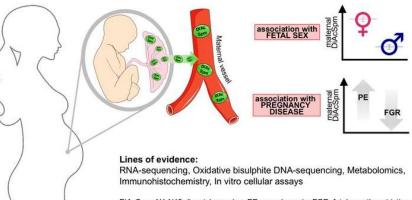
= X-Chromosome inactivation

- some genes are known to escape X inactivation

 \rightarrow increased gene expression in females relative to males

e.g. sex-dependent expression of SMS gene and synthesis of antioxidant spermine

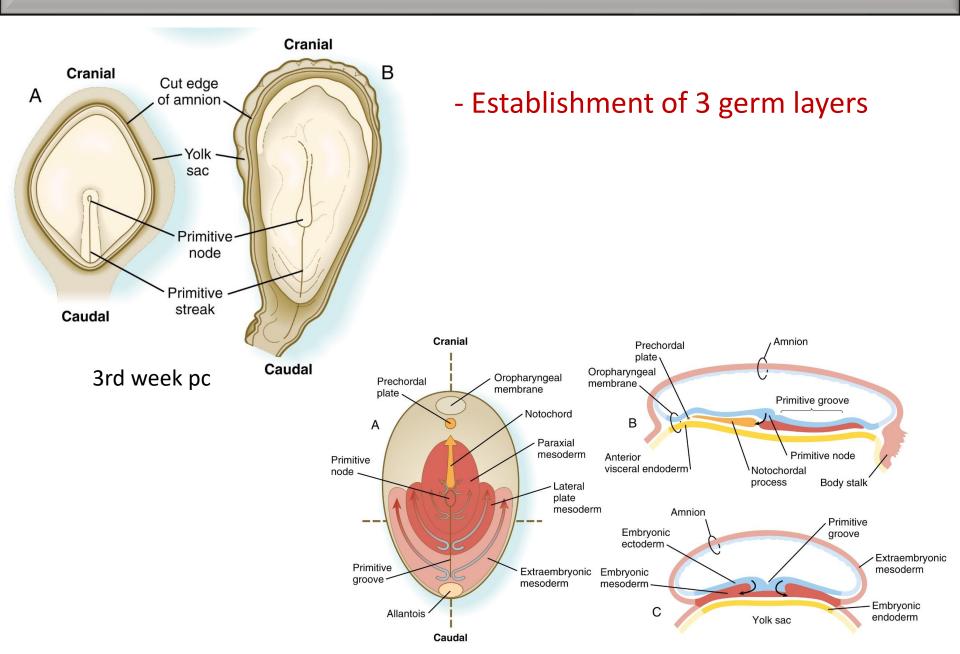
→ sexual dimorphismus in placental function



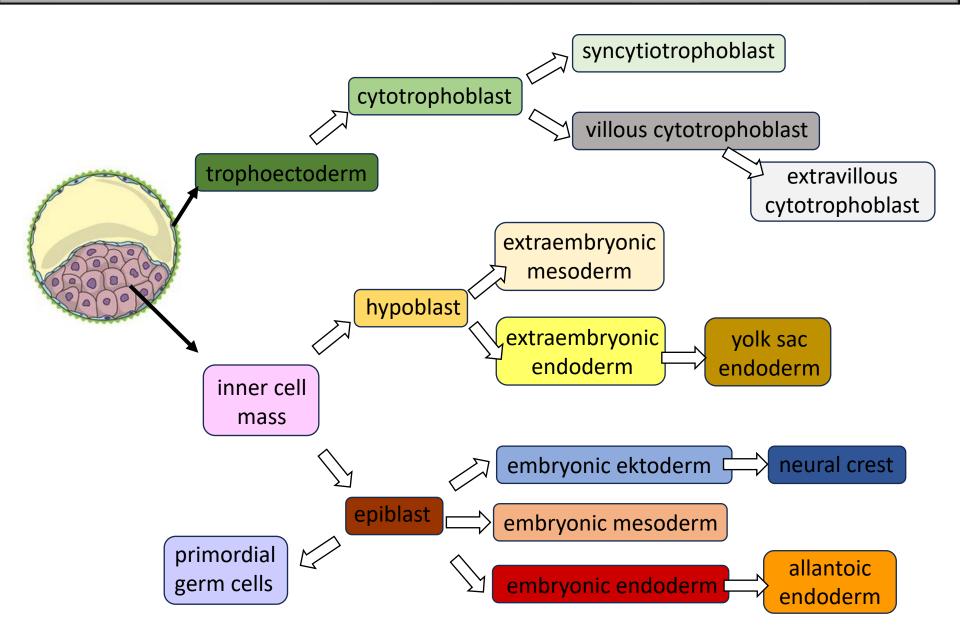
DiAcSpm: N1,N12-diacetylspermine; PE: preeclampsia; FGR: fetal growth restriction

Gong et al 2018

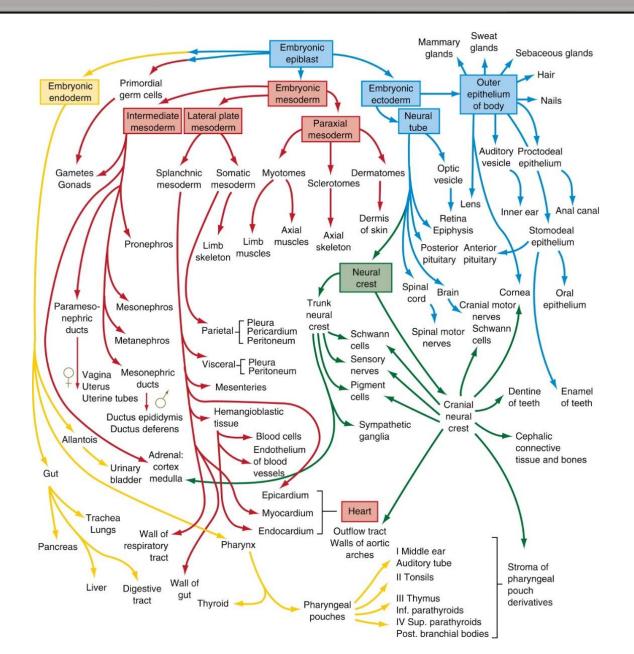
Gastrulation



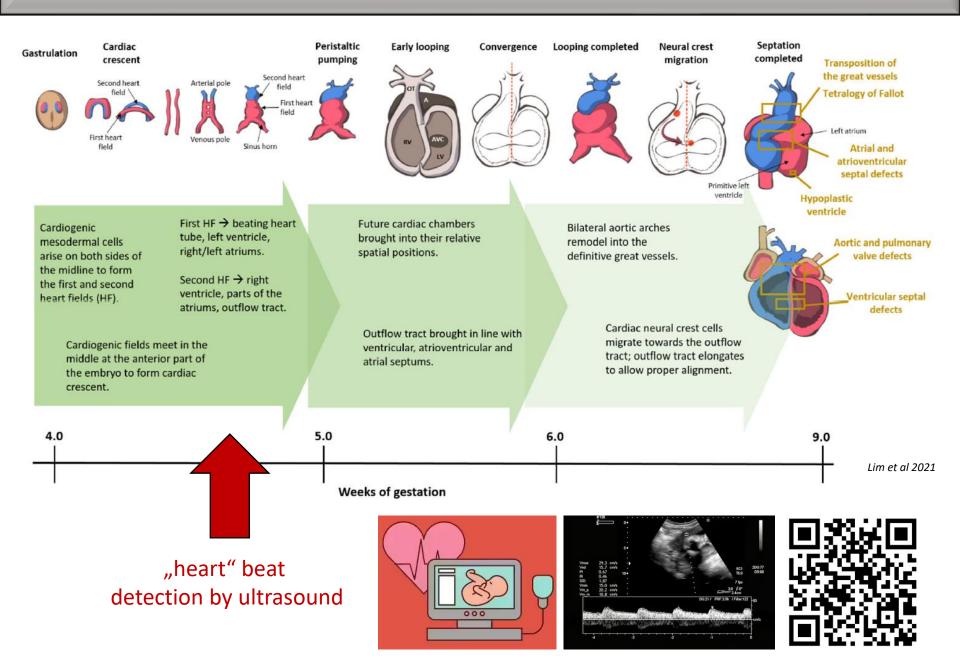
Early derivatives



Germ layer derivatives



Clinical pregnancy



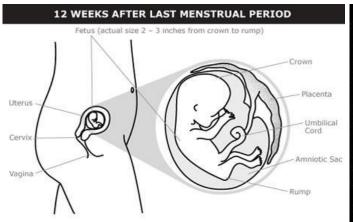
Ongoing clinical pregnancy





 placenta and organ systems fully formed

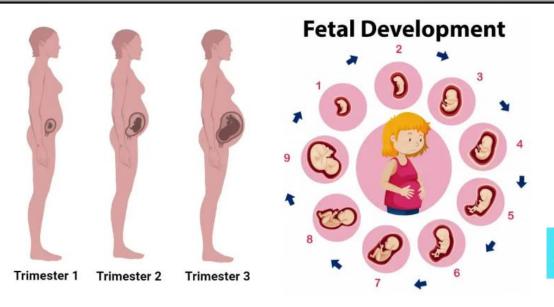








Live birth



- gestational age 38-42 weeks
- ~ 50 cm, 3-3.5 kg
- eutrophic
- signs of fetal maturity

MAKE ROOM FOR BABY

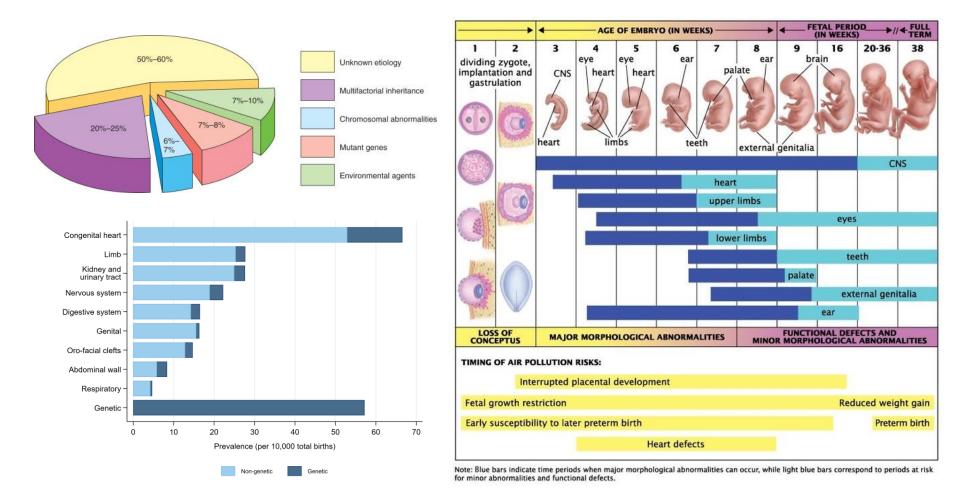




9-12 weeks

Congenital anomalies

- major anomalies present in ~3% of liveborn infants
- induced by genetic and/or environmental factors



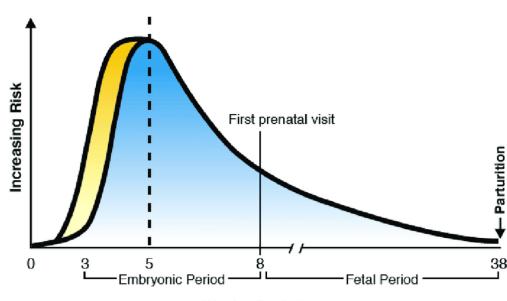
Prevention of congenital anomalies

11-13 wg

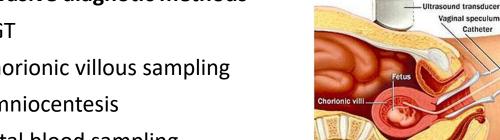
Estimated RISK

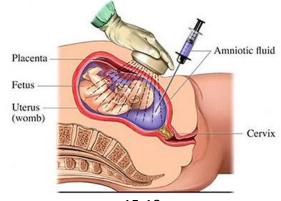
with respect to maternal age

- Non-invasive diagnotic methods
- Anamnesis \geq
- Ultrasound \geq
- **Biochemical testing** \geq -hCG, AFP, PAPP-A, eE3
- cfDNA



Weeks Gestation





15-18 wg

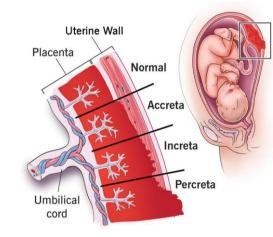
Invasive diagnotic methods

- PGT
- Chorionic villous sampling
- Amniocentesis \geq
- Fetal blood sampling
- Induced abortion \geq



Pregnancy complications linked to placenta pathology

- Pre-eclampsia
- Gestational trophoblastic diseases
- Pregnancy loss after 12 wg
 - clinical miscarriage
 - silent/missed miscarriage
- Fetal growth restriction
- Fetal macrosomia
- Preterm labour
- Still birth
- Ceasarian section
- Placenta accreta







"fetoreduction"

= elective reduction of number of fetuses in high risk multifetal monochorial pregnancies

Pre-eclampsia

- life-threatening disease of pregnancy caused by placenta dysfunction
- exclusive to humans, 1-5% pregnancies (20+wg)
- leading cause of maternal and neonatal morbidity
- survivors have long-term complications and high risk of later development of metabolic and cardiovascular diseases
- complex multisystem disease
- manifested by
 - sudden-onset hypertension
 - proteinuria
 - edema
- complications
 - HELLP syndrome = Hemolysis , Elevated Liver enzymes and Low Platelet count
 - Eclampsia seisures and coma
 - Haemorhagic stroke
 - Placental abruption
 - Renal failure
- preterm pre-eclampsia with early onset < 34 wg</p>
- **>** preterm pre-eclampsia with late onset \ge 34 wg
- ➤ term pre-eclampsia ≥ 37 wg
- > post-partum pre-eclampsia diagnosed after delivery

Brain

Eclampsia

stroke

Seizures

- Haemorrhagic
 Ar
- Cortical blindness
 Arterial ischaemic stroke
 - Cerebral venous
 - sinus thrombosis
- Visual disturbance
 Severe headache

Vasculature

- Reduced blood flow (for example, heart, kidney)
- Systemic endothelial dysfunction
- Coagulopathy
- Thrombocytopenia

Lung

Pulmonary oedema

Liver

- HELLP syndrome
- Severe liver dysfunction

Kidney

- Endothelial injury
- Glomerular endotheliosis
- Proteinuria
- Renal failure

Placenta

- Placental syncytial stress
- Angiogenic imbalance
- Placental abruption

Decidua

 Inadequate spiral artery remodelling

Fetus

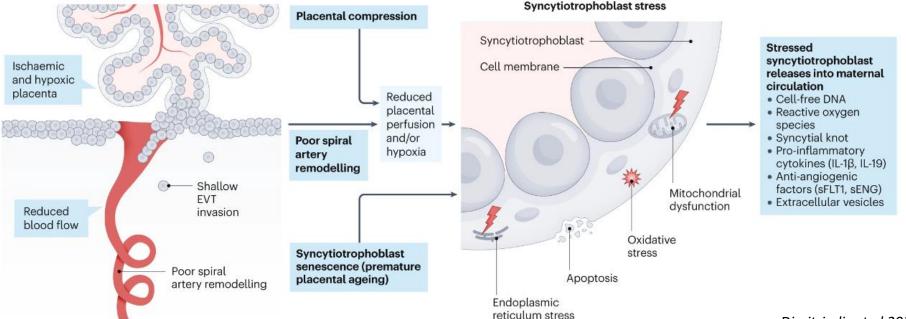
- Fetal distress
- Growth restriction

Pre-eclampsia

- caused by placenta dysfunction caused by defective or insufficient ("shallow") placentation

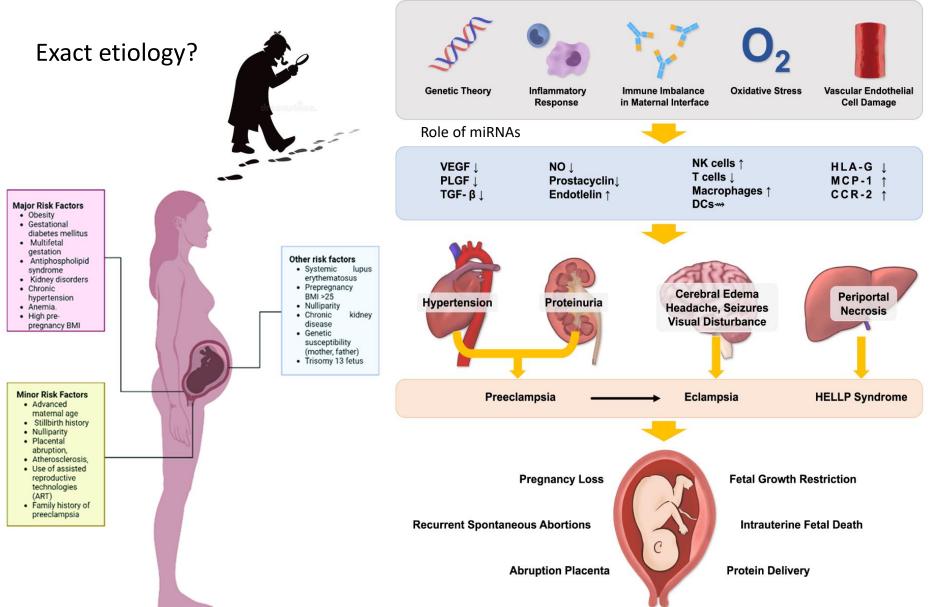
Proposed mechanisms:

- ? poor invasion and/or premature senescence of the trophoblast
- ? STB stress
- ? inadequate spiral artery remodelling
- ? incomplete plugging and premature onset of blood perfusion
- ? imune imbalance at maternal-fetal interface
- ? excessive blood clotting



placental malperfusion (ischemia and reperfusion injury), disregulated release of placental factors, angiogenic imbalance, maternal endothelia dysfunction, reduced vasodilatation and systemic inflammation

Pre-eclampsia

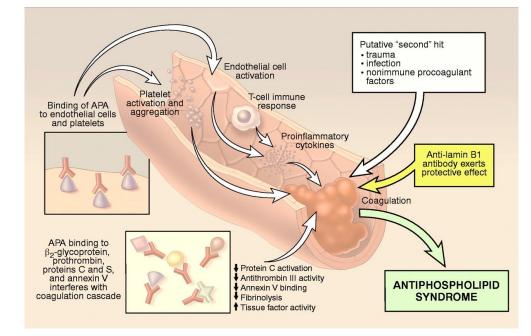


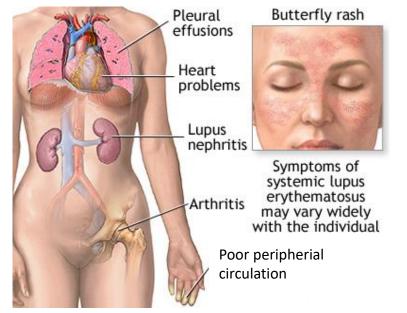
Lian et a l 2022

Pre-eclampsia

Antiphosholipid syndrom (APS)

- autoimmune disorder associated with pregnancy complication including pre-eclampsia
- caused by antiphospholipid antibodies (APA) raising risk of blood clotting



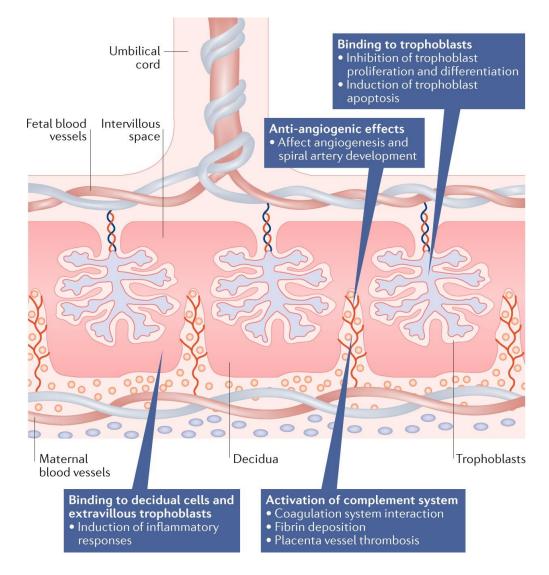


Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)

- autoimmune disease in which immune system
 mistakenly attacks nuclear and cytoplasmic
 antigens in the body
- multisystem inflammation and increased risk of infertility and pregnancy complication including preeclampsia

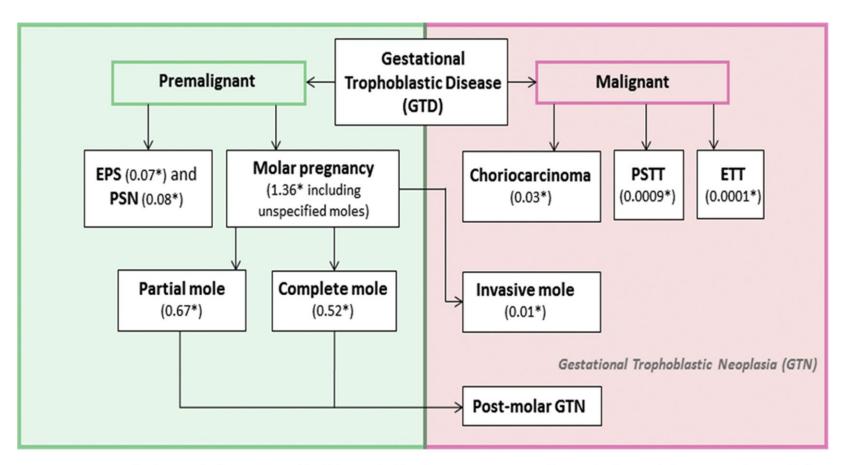
Pre-eclampsia

- autoantibody effect on fetal maternal interface



Gestation Trophoblastic diseases

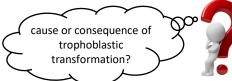
heterogenous group of pregnancy-related disorders arising from abnormal proliferation of placental trophoblast



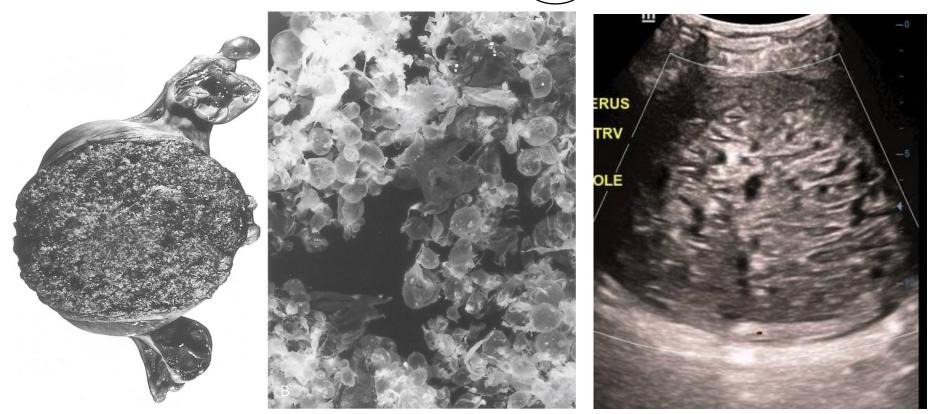
EPS, exaggerated placental site; ETT, epithelial trophoblastic tumour; PSN, placental site nodule; PSTT, placental-site trophoblastic tumour. * Incidence rates per 1000 deliveries per year in the Netherlands between 1994-2013 (Figure drafted by M Frijstein based on Eysbouts et al. Gynecol Oncol. 2016)

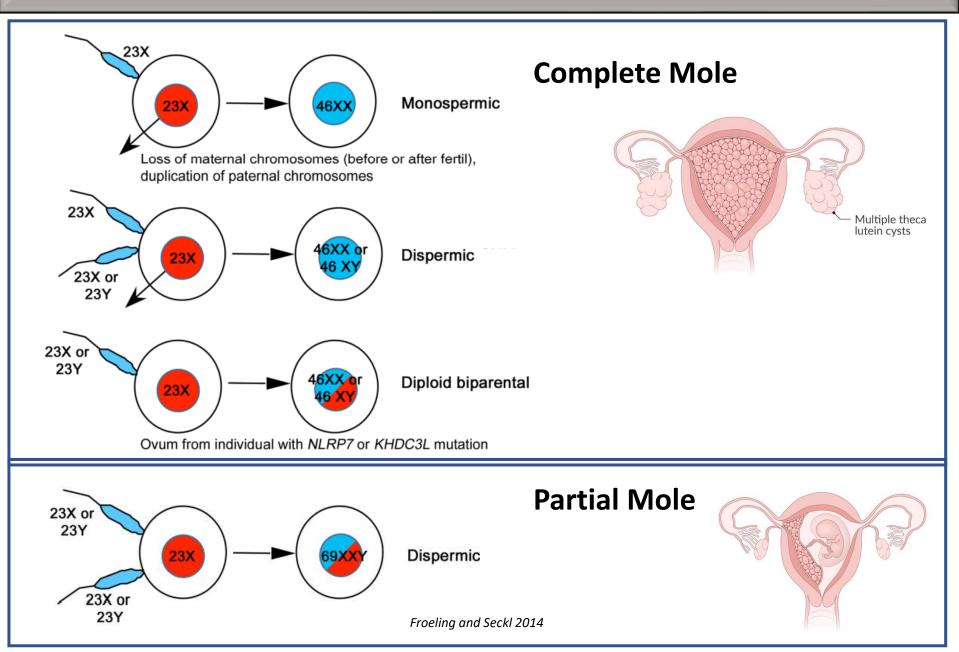
= Hydatidoform mole (mola hydatidosa)

- overproliferation and dysmorphysim of chorionic villi
- vascular obliteration and nodular swellings
- embryo is absent or non-viable

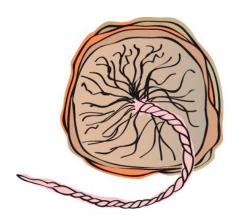








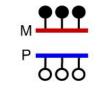
- imbalance of genomic imprinting, dominance of growth-promoting paternal genes



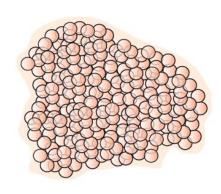
Control Placenta

Oocyte-derived methylation

Sperm-derived methylation





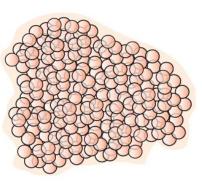


KHDC3L-mutated or NLRP7-mutated molar tissue









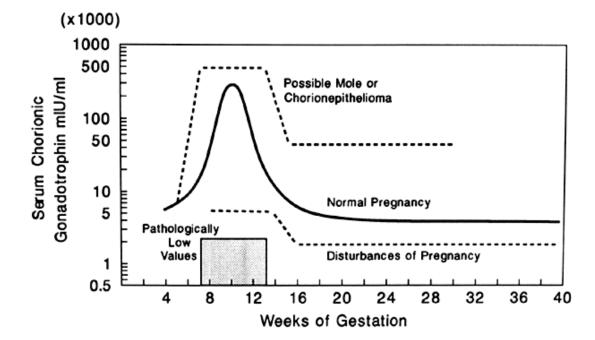
Androgenetic derived molar tissue





Clinical manifestation:

- Vaginal bleeding
- Uterus enlargement
- Extremely elevated hCG
- Hyperemesis Gravidarum
- Theca lutein cyst
- Hyperthyreoidism
- Tachycardia
- High blood pressure

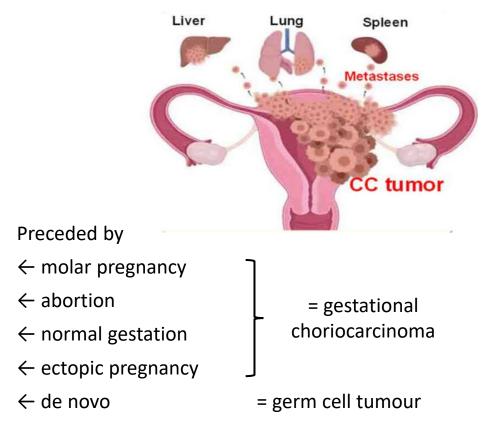


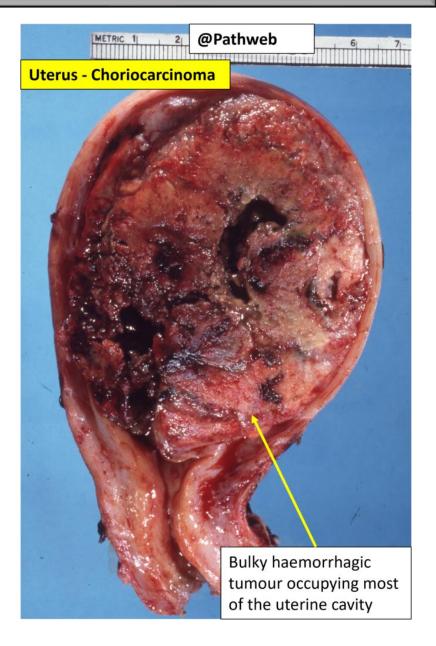
RISK of developing post molar tumor !



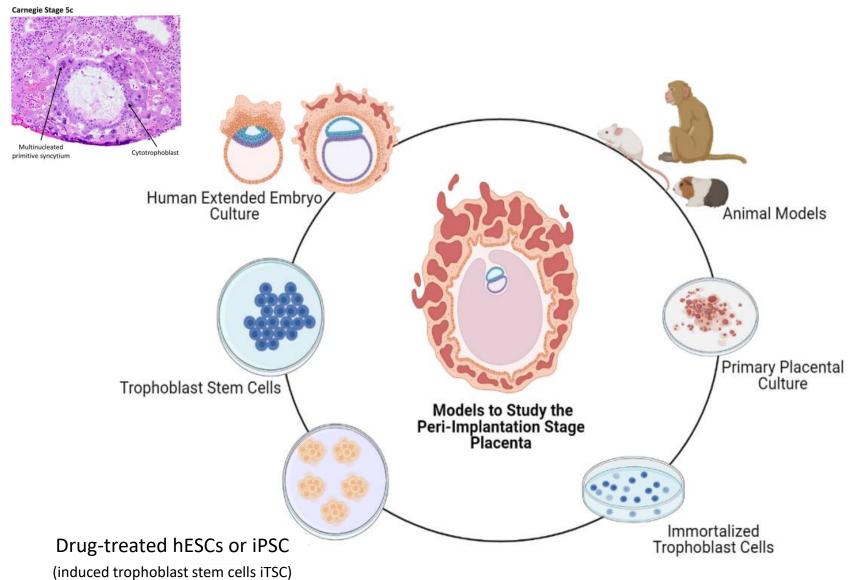
Choriocarcinoma

- Malignant trophoblastic cancer
- consists of CTB and SCT cells at the absence of chorionic villi
- Elevated production of hCG
- Metastasis spreading typically to lungs





Fixed hysteroscopy samples



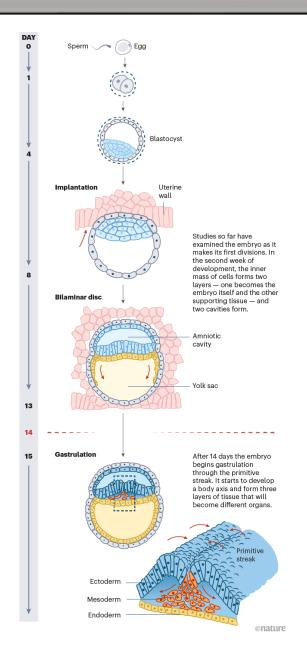
Zhou et al 2021

"14 day rule"

1979 - Ethics Advisory Board of the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare

- embryos shall not be kept alive in vitro longer than 14 days after fertilisation or the stage of development that is equivalent to when embryos finish implantation





"14 day rule"

introduction of culture system capable to support embryonic development past implantation stage

nature

cell biology



Magdalena Zernizka-Goetz

Shahbazi et 2016

NATURE PROTOCOLS

D8.5 pc

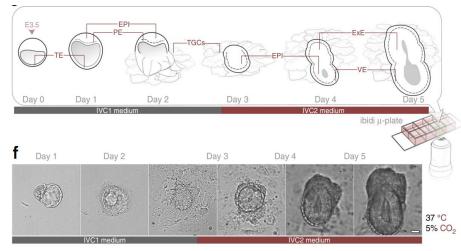
Bedzhov et 2014

PROTOCOL

In vitro culture of mouse blastocysts beyond the implantation stages

Ivan Bedzhov¹⁻³, Chuen Yan Leung¹⁻³, Monika Bialecka¹⁻³ & Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz^{1,2}

¹Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience, Downing Site, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. ²Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. ³These authors contributed equally to this work. Correspondence should be addressed to M.Z.-G. (mr205@cam.ac.uk).

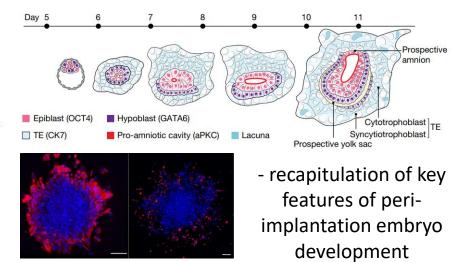


- ECM coated dishes, no endometrium!

Self-organization of the human embryo in the absence of maternal tissues

Marta N. Shahbazi^{1,5}, Agnieszka Jedrusik^{1,5}, Sanna Vuoristo^{1,5}, Gaelle Recher^{1,6}, Anna Hupalowska¹, Virginia Bolton², Norah M. E. Fogarty³, Alison Campbell⁴, Liani G. Devito², Dusko Ilic², Yakoub Khalaf², Kathy K. Niakan³, Simon Fishel⁴ and Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz^{1,7}

D13 pc



CGB, HLA-G

"14 day rule"



Embryology policy: Revisit the 14-day rule

Insoo Hyun, Amy Wilkerson & Josephine Johnston

04 May 2016



🕲 ISSCR

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

drop of 14 day limit

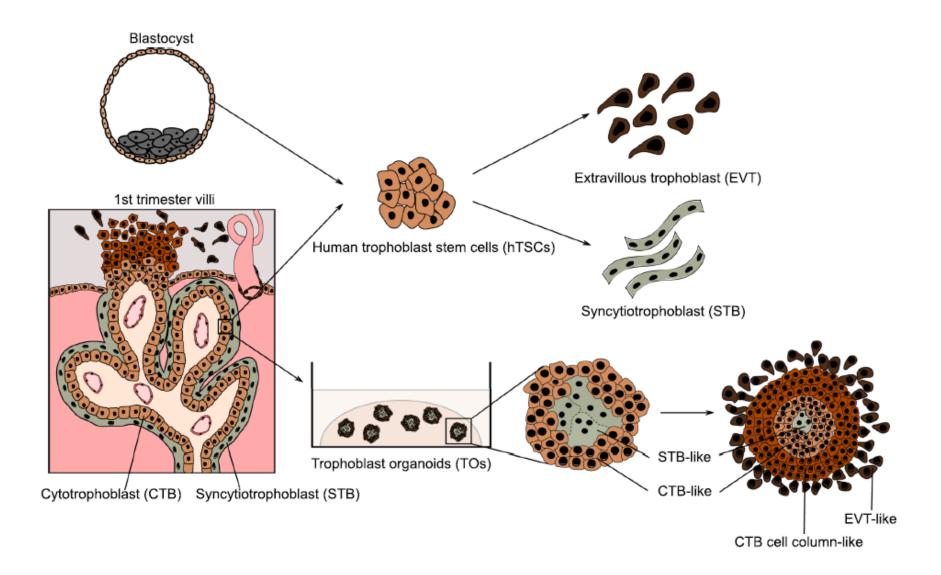
New ISSCR guidelines

Conditionally permitted human embryos to be cultured in vitro beyond 14 days post-fertilization Fertilization Fetus 14 days In vitro culture permitted (no time limitation) Advances understanding of life events and disease Reason mechanisms Technically possible to culture for 14 days or longer Research on embryo-like structures* made 14-day rule obsolete Inconsistent regulations may complicate international Issue cooperation. At what stage should the in vitro cultures of human embryos be terminated? Public discussion among citizens is needed



Need to decide how to proceed with research on embryos and embryo-like structures

2021

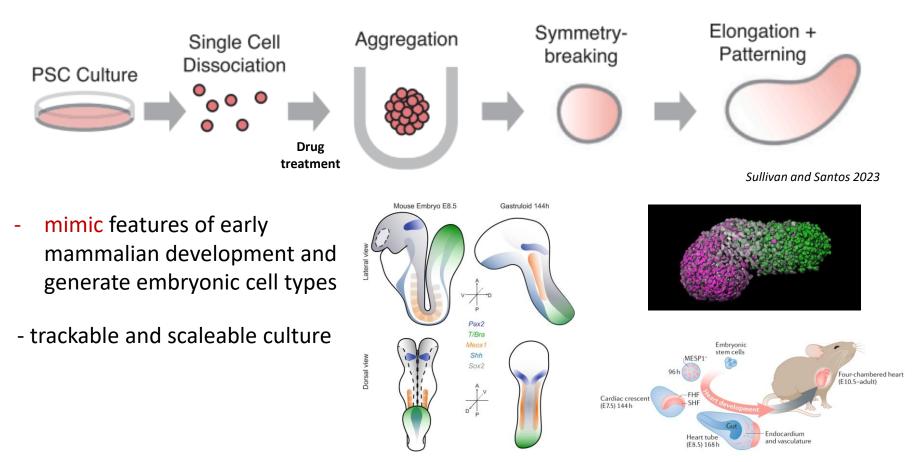


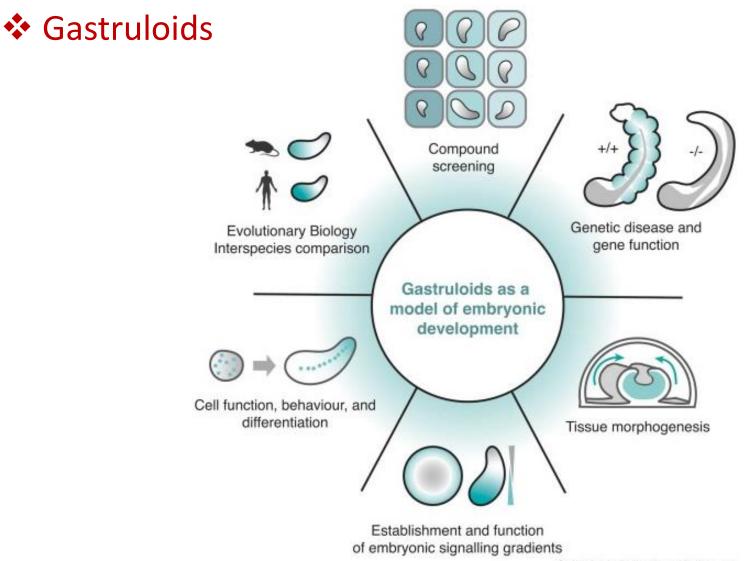
Gastruloid

Embryo

Gastruloids

- stem cell-based models recapitulating gastrulation process
- 2D/3D structures generated by aggregation of pluripotent mouse/human stem cells





Current Opinion in Genetics and Development

Ex utero development

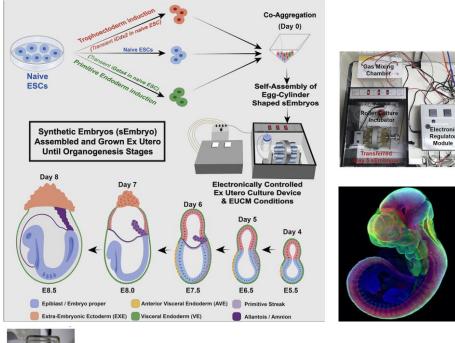


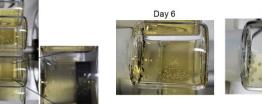
Cell

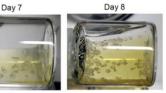
Article

Post-gastrulation synthetic embryos generated ex utero from mouse naive ESCs

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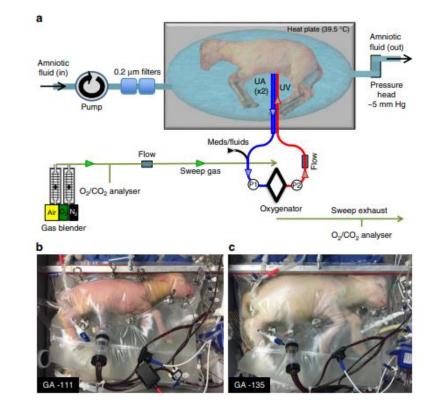
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Received 25 Apr 2016 | Accepted 2 Mar 2017 | Published 25 Apr 2017

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms15112 OPEN

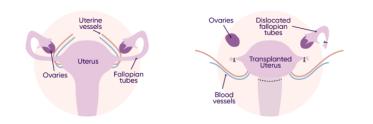
An extra-uterine system to physiologically support the extreme premature lamb

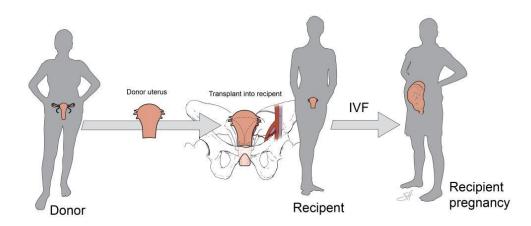
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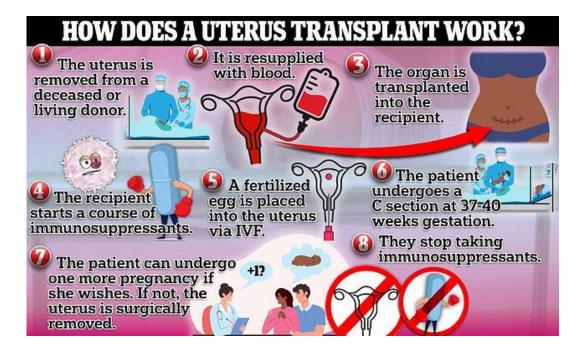


Uterus transplantation

- uterus agenesis
- anatomical malformations
- previous hysterectomy









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