

DEFINITIONS: SEXUAL HEALTH: PART 2: PREGNANCY AND ABORTION:

PREGNANCY:

1. **Fertilization:** The initiation of biological reproduction. The union of the nucleus of an egg cell with the nucleus of a sperm cell.
2. **Fertilized Egg:** The egg/ovum after penetration by a sperm. It is also called a zygote.
3. **Gene:** The basic unit of heredity. A section of the chromosome containing chemical instructions for making a particular protein.
4. **Fraternal Twins:** Twins who develop from separate fertilized eggs. Such twins are not genetically identical.
5. **Identical twins:** Twins who develop from the division of a single zygote. Such twins are genetically identical.
6. **Infertility:** The inability to conceive after trying for 1 year or more.
7. **Assisted Reproductive Technology [ART]:** Advanced medical techniques used to treat infertility.
8. **Artificial (Intrauterine) Insemination:** The introduction of semen into the vagina by artificial means.
9. **In Vitro Fertilization [IVF]:** Combining eggs and sperm outside the body and inserting one or more fertilized eggs into the uterus.
10. **Gamete Intra-fallopian transfer [GIFT]:** Surgically placing the ovum and the sperm in the fallopian tubes prior to fertilization.
11. **Zygote Intra-fallopian Transfer [ZIFT]:** Surgically placing a fertilized egg into the fallopian tubes.
12. **Trimester:** One of the three 3-month periods of pregnancy.
13. **Blastocyst:** A stage of development, Days 6-14, before the cell cluster becomes the embryo and placenta.
14. **Embryo:** The stage of development between the blastocyst and fetus. From weeks 2-8.
15. **Placenta:** The organ through which the fetus receives nourishment and empties waste via the mother's circulatory system. After birth the placenta is expelled from the uterus.

16. **Umbilical cord:** The cord connecting the placenta and the fetus, through which nutrients pass.
17. **Amniotic sac:** A membranous pouch enclosing and protecting the fetus. It contains amniotic fluid which cushions the fetus.
18. **Ultrasonography:** The use of high-frequency sound waves to view the fetus in the uterus. It is also known as ultrasound.
19. **Sonogram:** The visual image of the fetus in-utero produced by ultrasonography.
20. **Amniocentesis:** A process by which amniotic fluid is removed and analyzed to detect possible birth defects.
21. **Chorionic Villus Sampling [CVS]:** Surgical removal of a tiny section of the chorionic villi to be analyzed for genetic defects.
22. **Quadruple Marker Screen [QMS]:** A measurement of four hormones to assess the risk of fetal abnormalities.
23. **Rh Factor:** A protein found in blood. Rh incompatibility between the mother and the fetus can jeopardize the fetus's health.
24. **Teratogen:** An agent or influence that causes physical defects in a developing fetus.
25. **Congenital Malformation:** A physical defect existing at the time of birth. It is either inherited or caused during gestation.
26. **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome [FAS]:** A combination of birth defects caused by excessive alcohol consumption by the mother during pregnancy.
27. **Ectopic Pregnancy:** A pregnancy in which the embryo develops outside the uterus.
28. **Preeclampsia:** A condition of pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure and protein in the urine.
29. **Eclampsia:** A severe, potentially life-threatening form of preeclampsia which is characterized by seizures.
30. **Placenta Previa:** A complication of pregnancy in which the placenta covers the cervical opening either partially or fully, preventing the mother from delivering the baby vaginally.

31. **Placental Abruption:** A complication of pregnancy in which a normally implanted placenta prematurely separates from the uterine wall.
32. **Gestational Diabetes Mellitus [GDM]:** A form of diabetes that occurs during pregnancy.
33. **Premature:** Born before the 37th week of pregnancy.
34. **Low birth weight[LBW]:** Weighing less than 5.5 lbs at birth. Often the result of prematurity.
35. **Infant mortality:** The death of a child less than 1 year of age.
36. **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome [SIDS]:** The sudden death of an apparently healthy infant during sleep.
37. **Labor:** The act or process of giving birth to a child. Expelling it with the placenta from the mother's body by means of uterine contractions.
38. **Contraction:** Shortening of the muscles in the uterine wall, which causes effacement and dilatation of the cervix. This helps in expelling the fetus.
39. **Transition:** The last part of the first stage of labor, during which the cervix becomes fully dilated. It is characterized by intense and frequent contractions.
40. **Lightening:** A process in which the uterus sinks down because the baby's head settles into the pelvic area.
41. **Apgar Score:** A formalized system for assessing a newborn's need for medical assistance.
42. **Cesarean Section:** A surgical incision through the abdominal wall and uterus, performed to deliver a fetus.
43. **Postpartum period:** The period of about 3 months after delivering a baby.
44. **Lactation:** The production of breast milk.
45. **Colostrum:** A yellowish fluid secreted by the mammary glands around the time of childbirth until the milk comes in about the third day.
46. **Postpartum Depression:** An emotional low that may be experienced by a mother following childbirth.

ABORTION: