



14 weeks



20 weeks

Whether or not a baby feels pain during abortion is an important question. But it is not the only question to ask to determine if abortion is right or wrong. The reality is, these tiny little babies are defenseless human beings. They just need time and they will grow to be just like you, your friends, or your family. Defending them is something we should do, not just to help them avoid the pain of an abortion, but also because it is simply right to defend the weak and helpless. Will you help?



16 weeks

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WHAT DOES A BABY FEEL DURING AN ABORTION?

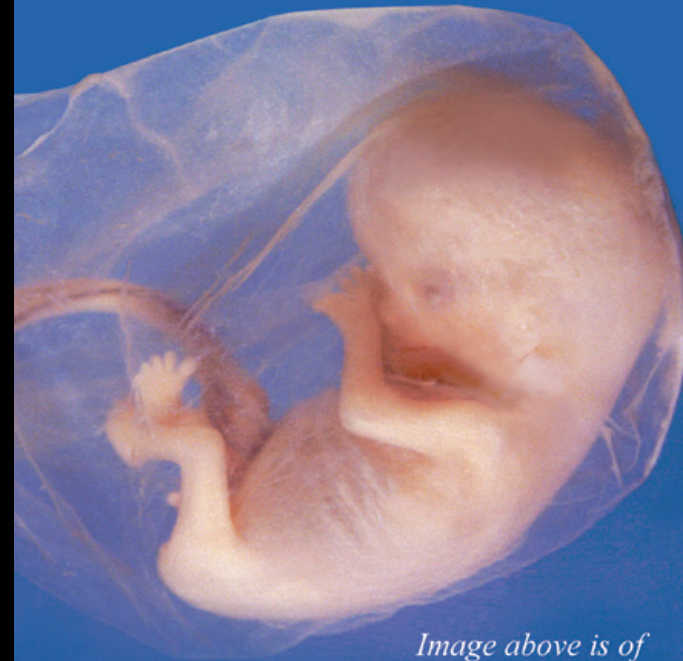


Image above is of a baby 11 weeks after conception.

Does a baby feel pain during an abortion? It used to be thought that a baby had not developed the proper nerve cells to feel pain. Some even thought they didn't feel pain until well after birth. Recent studies have shown that this is not the case, and that babies are able to feel sensations, including pain, very early in their life. Through ultrasound and fetal evidence, we now know babies do feel pain during most abortions.

Abortions

(All information for United States Abortions)

7-8 Weeks:

Numbers: 61.3% of all U.S. abortions²
(735,600 babies/yr)¹

Method: Medical or Vacuum Aspiration. Mifepristone (also known as RU-486) is administered in 90 percent of medical abortions.³ Mifepristone destroys the connection between the baby and the mother (the placenta) through breaking down the lining of the uterus.⁴ The dead baby is then delivered.

9-12 Weeks:

Numbers: 27.4% of all abortions²
(328,800 babies/yr)¹

Method: Vacuum aspiration uses a plastic tube inserted into the womb. A pump attached to the tube is used to pull the baby out. Often the baby is too large to fit through the tube. The suction will then pull the baby into pieces.⁵

13 Weeks to Birth:

Numbers: 11.3% of all U.S. abortions²
(135,600 babies/yr)¹

Method: Dilation and evacuation is a procedure for larger babies who would not fit through vacuum tubes. In this procedure, the cervix is dilated and then forceps are inserted into the womb and the baby is pulled into pieces to be removed.^{6,7}

Fetal Pain

6 Weeks:

Pain & Senses: At 6 weeks, the baby responds to touch.⁸ Starting at 4 weeks after conception, pain receptors begin to develop, followed by nerve fibers that carry messages to the brain.⁹

10 Weeks:

Pain & Senses: At 10 weeks, if the baby is touched, the baby's hand and eyes will close.¹² The baby's cerebral cortex (recognized as the pain center in adults) started developing 2 weeks ago and will swiftly grow to have the same number of nerves as an adult's.⁹

12 Weeks:

Pain & Senses: The baby now swallows and responds to simple stimulation of the skin. The baby has been able to smile for over a week now.¹¹

20 Weeks:

Pain & Senses: At 20 weeks, all the physiological connections are in place to feel pain.

"At 20 weeks, the fetal brain has the full complement of brain cells present in adulthood, ready and waiting to receive pain signals from the body, and their electrical activity can be recorded by standard electroencephalography."

– Dr. Paul Ranalli, neurologist, University of Toronto



Above: A baby's feet at 11 weeks after conception

Below: A baby at 7 weeks after conception

