

Critical periods of your baby's development



WHAT ARE STRUCTURAL BIRTH DEFECTS?

Structural birth defects are abnormalities in the structure of body parts. Examples include cleft palate, heart defects and spina bifida.



WHAT ARE FUNCTIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS?

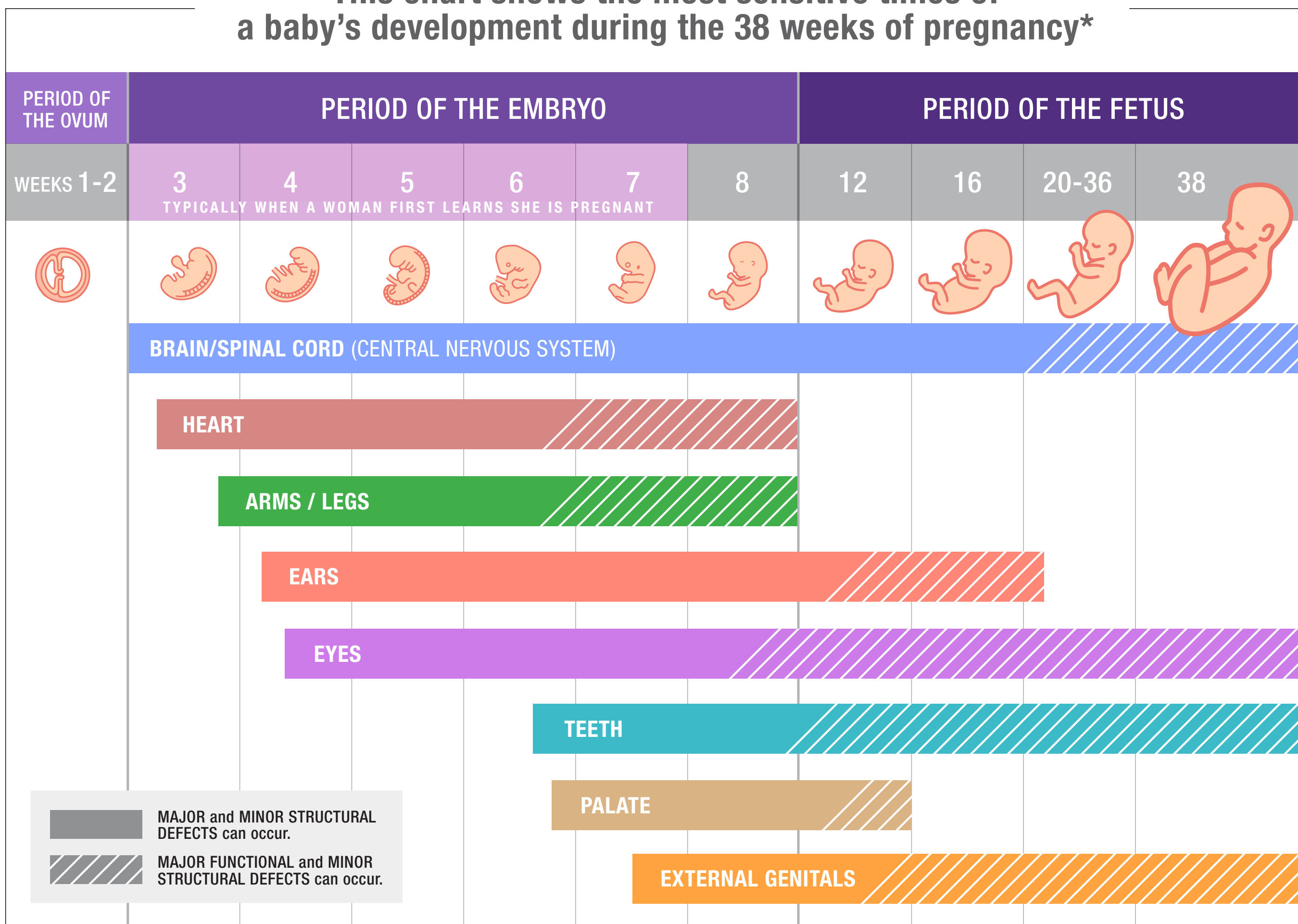
Functional birth defects are problems in how a body system works. Examples include hearing and vision loss.



WHAT CAUSES BIRTH DEFECTS?

Birth defects can be caused by genetic (mutations) or environmental factors (teratogens). Examples of teratogens include alcohol, certain medications, and infections.

This chart shows the most sensitive times of a baby's development during the 38 weeks of pregnancy*



*This fetal chart shows the 38 weeks of pregnancy. Since it is difficult to know exactly when conception occurs, health care providers calculate a woman's due date 40 weeks from the start of her last menstrual cycle.

Adapted from Moore, 1993 and the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) 2009



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