Women’s health depends on a lifetime of answers—one test at a time.

Women and Pregnancy

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Answers for life.
Pregnancy—the nine months or so for which a woman carries a developing embryo and fetus in her womb—is for most women a time of great happiness and fulfillment. However, during pregnancy, both the woman and her developing child face various health risks. For this reason, it is important that all pregnancies be monitored by skilled care providers.\(^1\)
What Is Pregnancy?

Pregnancy is the fertilization and development of one or more offspring, known as an embryo or fetus, in a woman’s uterus. It is the common name for gestation in humans.
The Global Burden of Pregnancy

- According to the WHO, 287,000 women died due to pregnancy or childbirth-related complications in 2010.²
- In developing countries, nearly half of all mothers and newborns do not receive skilled care during and immediately after birth.³
- Up to two-thirds of newborn deaths can be prevented if known, effective health measures are provided at birth and during the first week of life.³
- In the United States, maternal stays with pregnancy- and delivery-related complications account for approximately 5% of total hospital costs.⁴

Risk Factors⁵

The factors that place a pregnancy at risk can be divided into four categories:

Existing Health Conditions
- High blood pressure
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- Diabetes
- Kidney disease
- Autoimmune disease
- Thyroid disease
- Infertility
- Obesity
- HIV/AIDS

Age
- Teen pregnancy
- First-time pregnancy after age 35

Lifestyle Factors
- Alcohol use
- Cigarette smoking

Conditions of Pregnancy
- Multiple gestation
- Gestational diabetes
- Preeclampsia and eclampsia

Symptoms⁶

In addition to a missed period, the earliest signs and symptoms of pregnancy might include:
- Tender, swollen breasts
- Nausea, with or without vomiting
- Increased urination
- Fatigue
- Food aversions or cravings
- Slight vaginal bleeding
- Cramping
- Mood swings
- Dizziness
- Constipation
## References

Caring for the Pregnant Woman

Prenatal care plays an integral role in insuring the health and well-being of both mother and child. Babies of mothers who do not get prenatal care are three times more likely to have a low birth weight and five times more likely to die than those born to mothers who do get care. Laboratory diagnostic testing plays an integral role in caring for women throughout the continuum of pregnancy.

As an integrated healthcare company, Siemens’ comprehensive solutions, which include multiple imaging modalities, support reproductive care for a lifetime, including accurate diagnosis and monitoring. In addition, our solutions in healthcare IT support the exchange of data for making informed decisions.
Your results. Her lifetime.

Empowering you to advance the health and vitality of women throughout the continuum of life.
Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, a global leader in clinical diagnostics, provides healthcare professionals in hospital, reference, and physician office laboratories and point-of-care settings with the vital information required to accurately diagnose, treat, and monitor patients. Our innovative portfolio of performance-driven solutions and personalized customer care combine to streamline workflow, enhance operational efficiency, and support improved patient outcomes.

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