

Human Embryo Development
In the
Holy Qur'an and Science

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1. Fetus is developed in stages

The 20th century scientific discoveries state that human reproduction happens in many different and unique stages. The Holy Qur'an miraculously described the same stages and their sequence in details more than 1400 years ago when there was no sonography, microscope, cameras, etc.! This has been shown by a renowned professor of embryology by the name of Keith L. Moore and is shown in his book entitled "The Developing Human" (3rd edition).

وَقَدْ خَلَقَكُمْ أَطْوَارًا

"God created you in stages " (71:14)

... يَخْلُقُكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِّن بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ ...

"...(God) creates you inside the bodies of your mothers, in stages, one after another..." (39:6)

...فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِّن تُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِّن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّن عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّن مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَنُقِرُّ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا...

"...We have created you from dust, then from a mere drop of sperm then from a clinging (leech-like) blood clot, then from a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat), that We may make (it) clear for you. And We cause what We will to extensively develop to completion or incomplete and to remain in the wombs for an appointed time, and afterward We bring you forth as infants..." (22:5)

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا
ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ

Then We created the drop of sperm into a clinging (leech-like) blood clot; then of that clot We created a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat); then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then we developed out of it a new creature. So blessed be Allah, the best to create!
(23:14)

2. Original building blocks of life

The building blocks of sperm & egg are the elements found on Earth (minerals, water, etc.). The Holy Qur'an refers to it as dust or wet clay.

...فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِّنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَنُقِرُّ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا...

“...We have created you from **dust**, then from a mere drop of sperm then from a clinging (leech-like) blood clot, then from a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat), that We may make (it) clear for you. And We cause what We will to extensively develop to completion or incomplete and to remain in the wombs for an appointed time, and afterward We bring you forth as infants...” (22:5)

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِّنْ طِينٍ

“And indeed, We created humankind from an **extract of wet clay**” (23:12)

3. Condition & function of the Sperm

The Holy Qur'an states that we are created from a fluid that is not highly thought and it is placed in a secure place. The casing of the sperm can be considered a secure place protecting the DNA contents. “Appointed term” could refer to the life cycle of the sperm (between 60 to 70 days in man's body).

Alternatively, the verses could refer to the sperm joining the egg and getting implanted in the uterus that is considered a safe place for the fertilized egg.

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُطْفَةً فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ

“then placed the sperm drop (or fertilized egg) in a **secure place**” (23:13)

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ

Then We **created the drop of sperm** into a clinging (leech-like) blood clot; then of that clot We created a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat); then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then we developed out of it a new creature. So blessed be Allah, the best to create! (23:14)

أَلَمْ يَكُ نُطْفَةً مِّن مَّنِيِّ يُمْنَىٰ

“ Was (man) not once a **sperm** in semen which has been poured out? “ (75:37)

4. Mixture of various things

A complex mixture of things (The fertilized egg – combination of the Chromosomes from man & female). Additionally, the semen itself (or spermatid liquid) is a mixture of secretions from many glands (the testicles, the seminal vesicles, the prostate glands, and the glands annexed to the urinary tract). The Holy Qur'an calls this "mingled things".

إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ

"Verily, We created man from a small quantity of complex mingled things... " (76:2)

5. Implantation in & clinging to the uterus

This is an early stage in post-fertilization development when cells have rapidly mitotically divided to produce a solid mass of cells (16 or more) with a "mulberry" appearance is called the morula stage. In humans, implantation is the stage of pregnancy at which the embryo adheres to the wall of the uterus. At this point, the fertilized egg looks like a congealed blood (resembling a leech) hanging from the wall of uterus. The Holy Qur'an uses the Arabic word "عَلَقَةٍ" which has multiple meanings including the following 3 meanings: "compressed blood cells resembling a mulberry", "hanging or dangling", and "leech"!

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The Holy Qur'an refers to the transformation of the sperm (fertilized egg) into a "clinging mulberry" as a creation (changing from one thing to another thing completely different & new).

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6. Similar to a chewed-up piece of meat

After three weeks of development, the leech-like blood clot transforms into something similar to a small piece of chewed up meat. The chewed appearance results from the somites which resemble teeth marks. The somites represent the beginnings of the vertebrae (backbone). This has been shown by a renowned professor of embryology by the name of Keith L. Moore and is shown in his book entitled “The Developing Human” (3rd edition). The Holy Qur’an uses the Arabic word “مُضْغَةً” which means a bite-size chewed up piece of meat.

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Qur’an refers to the transformation of a “clinging mulberry” to a chewed-up piece of meat as a creation (changing from one thing to another thing completely different & new).

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7. Complex development to completion in due proportions

Beginning from the 3rd week when the embryo looks like a chewed-up piece of meat to the last stage when the baby is born, an extensive complex amount of development is done to complete the creation of the body! Scientific research shows that certain type of messaging occurs among the cells to coordinate the process. Each group of cells are assigned different tasks (i.e. some are developing the brain while others are developing the bones, etc.) but the entire work is coordinated across all groups! Endoderm, Mesoderm, and Ectoderm layers of cells working on different tasks!

The Holy Qur'an uses the Arabic word "مُخَلَّقَةً" which means "created". However, the root of the word indicates creation of something that involves extensive amount of work from the beginning to completion.

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مِن نُّطْفَةٍ خَلَقَهُ فَقَدَرَهُ

"From a sperm-drop: He creates him, and then develops him in due proportions" (80:19)

فَقَدَرْنَا فَنِعْمَ الْقَادِرُونَ

"We perfectly ordained its development. How excellent are We in doing so!" (77:23)

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقَ فَسَوَّىٰ

"Then he became a leech-like clot; then ((Allah)) created and fashioned (him) in balance and due proportion" (75:38)

8. Formation of bones and muscles

On the sixth week of development, the bone structure begins to develop inside the embryo or the “chewed lump of flesh” as the Holy Qur’an calls it. A week later, the seventh week, the muscles begin to cover the bones. The Holy Qur’an describes this sequence and how the flesh covers the bones like clothes.

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا
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“We have created the thing which clings into a chewed lump of flesh and We fashioned the chewed lump of flesh into **bones** then We clothed the bones with **intact flesh**” (23:14)

9. Development of ears and eyes

Beginning with the sixth week, eyes start to develop. Later around the 16th week, the ears stand out. However, at birth, the sense of hearing is much more dominant than the sense of sight. A child's clarity of vision (visual acuity) has usually developed to 20/20 by the time the child reaches six months of age. At this time, babies achieve fairly precise eye movement control. Therefore, the final development of hearing capability is prior to the completion of capability of seeing. The Holy Qur’an states that sequence by stating the **hearing before sight!**

Additionally, the first sense that is developed in the embryo is the sense of “hearing”.

Finally, our understanding of things and learning through hearing is more than through seeing.

ثُمَّ سَوَّاهُ وَنَفَخَ فِيهِ مِنْ رُوْحِهِ وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ

“Then He fashioned him in due proportion, and breathed into him a new spirit. And He gave you (the faculties of) **hearing** and **sight** and feeling (and understanding): little thanks do ye give!” (32:9)

قُلْ مَنْ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَمْ مَنْ يَمْلِكُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَمَنْ يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَيُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَمَنْ يُدَبِّرُ الْأُمْرَ فَسَيَقُولُونَ اللَّهُ فَقُلْ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ

Say: "Who is it that sustains you (in life) from the sky and from the earth? or who is it that has power over **hearing** and **sight**? And who is it that brings out the living from the dead and the dead from the living? and who is it that rules and regulates all affairs?" They will soon say, "(Allah)".

Say, "will you not then show piety (to Him)?" (10:31)

10. Physical characteristics of the baby

The Holy Qur'an states that while the fetus is being developed in the womb, God is the One who shapes the baby (like the best artist). It goes without saying that the human body is the best engineering design. The functionality, physical proportions, flexibility of movements, and all other complex scientific facts points out to one thing that is designed in "due proportions"

هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَوِّرُكُمْ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ لَآ إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

"He it is Who **shapes you** in the wombs as He pleases.

There is no god but He, the Exalted in Might, the Wise." (3:6)

هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

"He is God, the Creator, the Maker who **shapes all forms and appearances!** To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names: whatever is in the heavens and on earth, doth declare His Praises and Glory: and He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise." (59:24)

ثُمَّ سَوَّاهُ وَنَفَخَ فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِهِ وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ

"Then He **fashioned him in due proportion**, and breathed into him a new spirit. And He gave you (the faculties of) hearing and sight and feeling (and understanding): little thanks do you give!" (32:9)

11. Human's spirit joins the body

Each stage is a **new creation** according to the Holy Qur'an since it uses the word "فَخَلَقْنَا"! At some point during the development of the body, God causes the human spirit to join the body transforming it into a new creation (becomes a real human being)! Addition of the spirit to the body balances this new creation! The term "New Creation" could also be applied to the human body since each human being is unique (DNA, finger prints, unique patterns of a person's retina, etc.).

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا
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"...then We brought it into being as a **new creation**..." (23:14)

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقَ فَسَوَّى

"Then he became a leech-like clot; then ((Allah)) created and fashioned (him)

in balance and due proportion" (75:38)

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Then We created the drop of sperm into a clinging (leech-like) blood clot; then of that clot We created a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat); then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; **then we developed out of it a new creature**. So blessed be Allah, the best to create!
(23:14)

12. Possibility of miscarriage or an unhealthy baby

Qur'an tells us that not all babies are born healthy! Some may not develop completely into a healthy baby (miscarriage or handicap) due to parents' life styles, environment, etc.). The Holy Qur'an uses the Arabic word "عَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ" which means "not created". However, the expression could mean either uncreated things or not reaching completion. For example, if the ears of the baby are not formed at all or they are formed incompletely.

...فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِّن تُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِّن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّنْ مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَنُقِرُّ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ آجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا...

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13. Development in the womb

The Holy Qur'an explains that fetus remains in the uterus that is a secure place.

...فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِّن تُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِّن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّن عِلْقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّن مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَنُقِرُّ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا...

“...We have created you from dust, then from a mere drop of sperm then from a clinging (leech-like) blood clot, then from a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat), that We may make (it) clear for you. And We cause what We will to extensively develop to completion or incomplete and to remain **in the wombs** for an appointed time, and afterward We bring you forth as infants...” (22:5)

أَلَمْ نَخْلُقْكُمْ مِّن مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ إِلَىٰ قَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ

“Did We not create you from an insignificant fluid? Then We placed it in a **firm place of safety** for an appointed term” (77:20-22)

14. Three layers of darkness

As the embryo develops inside the womb, three layers of protection surround it. These are the maternal anterior **abdominal wall**, the **uterine wall**, and the **amniotic sac**.

Additionally, the “3 layers” could also be referring to **Endoderm, Mesoderm, and Ectoderm layers** of embryo! These 3 layers are responsible for development of various parts of body.

خَلَقَكُمْ مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَأَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِّنَ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ يَخْلُقْكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِّن بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ ذَلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّى تُصْرَفُونَ

“... (God) creates you inside the bodies of your mothers, in stages, one after another, in **three veils of darkness**... “ (39:6)

15. Sex of the baby

The chromosomes in the sperm determine the sex of a baby! We know that if sperm with a “y” chromosome fertilizes ovum, it is a male child and if sperm bearing “X” chromosome fertilizes ovum it is a female child. The Holy Qur’an clearly states the same scientific fact!

وَأَنَّهُ خَلَقَ الذَّرِّيَّاتِ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ إِذَا تُمْنَىٰ

“and that it is He who creates the two kinds - the male and the female from a sperm-drop when it is emitted” (53:45-46)

فَجَعَلَ مِنْهُ الذَّرِّيَّاتِ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ

“and fashioned out of it (sperm) the two sexes, the male and the female” (75:39)

Modern embryology shows that Primordial Germ Cells (PSG) are responsible for forming the reproductive glands of the baby. These cells first arise in the yolk sac and then they migrate to the dorsal body wall of the embryo between the 4th and 6th week of development. Later, they migrate to the ventral region of thoracic cavity where they stimulate the formation of the genital ridge. The Holy Qur’an describes the location of the 1st and 2nd migration “between the backbone and the ribs”!

خُلِقَ مِنْ مَّاءٍ دَافِقٍ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ

“He was created of a gushing fluid, proceeding from between the backbone and the ribs” (86:6-7)

16. Term of the pregnancy

Some babies are born after 6 months, some after 9 months, etc. The Holy Qur'an calls this an "appointed term" only set & known by God!

...فَأَنبَأَ خَلْقَنَاكُم مِّن تُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِّن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّن عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِّن مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَنُقِرُّ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا...

"...We have created you from dust, then from a mere drop of sperm then from a clinging (leech-like) blood clot, then from a lump of flesh (similar to chewed up meat), that We may make (it) clear for you. And We cause what We will to extensively develop to completion or incomplete and to remain in the wombs for **an appointed time**, and afterward We bring you forth as infants..." (22:5)

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ مِّن تُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِّن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنْثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ وَمَا يُعَمِّرُ مِنْ مَّعْمَرٍ وَلَا يُنْقِصُ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ

"And Allah created you from dust; then from a sperm-drop; then He made you in pairs. **And no female conceives, or lays down (her load), but with His knowledge...**" (35:11)

أَلَمْ نَخْلُقْكُمْ مِّن مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ فَجَعَلْنَا فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ إِلَىٰ قَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ

"Did We not create you from an insignificant fluid?
Then We placed it in a firm place of safety for an **appointed term**" (77:20-22)

17. Nursing the baby

وَالْوَالِدَاتُ يُرْضِعْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ

“And mothers may nurse their children (for maximum of) **two whole years**” (2:233)

The Holy Qur'an states that the baby should be nursed for up to maximum of 2 years. Science shows nursing the baby has many different benefits such as:

Stronger immune systems, Less diarrhea, constipation, gastroenteritis, gastroesophageal reflux, and preterm necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), Fewer colds and respiratory illnesses like pneumonia, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and whooping cough, Fewer ear infections, especially those that damage hearing, Fewer case of bacterial meningitis, Better vision and less retinopathy of prematurity, Lower rates of infant mortality, Lower rates of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), Less illness overall and less hospitalization

Breastfed babies may become healthier children with:

Fewer instances of allergies, eczema, and asthma, Fewer childhood cancers, including leukemia and lymphomas, Lower risk of type I and II diabetes, Fewer instances of Crohn's disease and colitis, Lower rates of respiratory illness, Fewer speech and orthodontic problems, Fewer cavities, Less likelihood of becoming obese later in childhood, Improved brain maturation, Greater immunity to infection

Teens and adults will find benefits for life:

Less likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, Less likely to develop heart disease in adulthood, Lower risk of multiple sclerosis, Lower rates of pre- and postmenopausal breast cancers

Breastfeeding is healthier for mom physically:

Promotes faster weight loss after birth, burning about 500 extra calories a day to build and maintain a milk supply. Stimulates the uterus to contract and return to normal size. Less postpartum bleeding, Fewer urinary tract infections, Less chance of anemia, Less risk of postpartum depression and more positive mood

Healthier for mom emotionally:

Breastfeeding produces the naturally soothing hormones oxytocin and prolactin that promote stress reduction and positive feelings in the nursing mother. Increased confidence and self-esteem, Increased calmness. Breastfed babies cry less overall, and have fewer incidences of childhood illness. Breastfeeding can support the wellness of body, mind, and spirit for the whole family.

Breastfeeding makes travel easier. Breast milk is always clean and the right temperature.

Physical/emotional bonding between mother and child is increased. Breastfeeding promotes more skin-to-skin contact, more holding and stroking. Many feel that affectionate bonding during the first years of life help reduce social and behavioral problems in both children and adults.

Breastfeeding mothers learn to read their infant's cues and babies learn to trust caregivers. This helps shape the infant's early behavior.

Benefits for life, breastfeeding may result in:

Lower risk of breast cancer, Lower risk of ovarian cancer, Lower risk of rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, Less endometriosis, Less osteoporosis with age, Less diabetes, Less hypertension decreases blood pressure, Less cardiovascular disease

	Holy Qur'an	Stages of human creation
1	تُرَابٍ (22:5) – dust - elements found on Earth	Sperm & egg are comprised of elements found on Earth
2	مِن بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ (86:6-7) - Between the backbone and the ribs	The source of sperm is from between the backbone and the ribs
3	نُطْفَةٍ (22:5) – Sperm causes fertilization	Sperm fertilizes the egg
4	نُطْفَةٍ مُّشْجَعٍ (76:2) - Small quantity of mingled things	The fertilized egg contains the Chromosomes from man & female). Additionally, the semen itself is a mixture of secretions from many glands
5	عَلَقَةٍ (22:5) – similar to a clinging leech-like blood clot	In humans, implantation is the stage of pregnancy at which the embryo adheres to the wall of the uterus. At this point, the fertilized egg looks like a congealed blood resembling a leech matching what the Qur'an says.
6	مُضْغَةٍ (22:5) – similar to a chewed-up piece of meat	After three weeks of development, the fertilized egg resembles a piece of chewed up meat as the Qur'an describes it.
7	مُخَلَّقَةٍ (23:14) – Extensive complex development to completion	From the 3 rd week when the embryo looks like a chewed-up piece of meat to the new-born, an extensive amount of development is done to develop the complete body!
8	عِظَامًا فَكَسَرْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا (23:14) – Bones & muscles	On the 6 th week of development, the bone structure begins to develop inside the embryo. A week later, the muscles begin to cover the bones. Quran states this sequence!
9	السَّمْعِ وَالْأَبْصَارِ (32:9) – Eyes and ears	Beginning the 6 th week eyes are starting to develop. Ears complete by the 16 th week but eyes are completed after the baby is born.
10	بِصُورِكُمْ (3:6) – Shaping you	It is God Who shapes you in the wombs
11	إِنشَاءَهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ (23:14) – Creation of human's spirit	At some point, God transfers the human spirit into the body
12	وغير مُخَلَّقَةٍ (23:14) - Incomplete development	Not all babies are born and/or healthy!
13	الأرحامِ (22:5) – In the womb where it is a secure فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ (23:13)	Embryo is protected in the womb
14	فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ (39:6) – Three veils of darkness	As the embryo develops inside the womb, three layers of protection surround it.
15	الرُّؤُوسِ الذَّكَرِ وَالْأُنثَى (53:45-46)– Sperm determines the sex مِن بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ (86:6-7) between backbone & ribs	The chromosomes in the sperm determine the sex of a baby! We know that if sperm with a “y” chromosome fertilizes ovum, it is a male child and if sperm bearing “X” chromosome fertilizes ovum it is a female child. Reproductive organs are formed from between the backbone & ribs
16	أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى (22-5) – قَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ (77:22) - Appointed time	Some babies are born after 6 months, some after 9 months, etc. Qur'an calls this an “appointed term”!