

# Fetal Alcohol Syndrome



DEN 1114: HISTOLOGY &  
EMBRYOLOGY

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# Prenatal Development

## Conception to birth

### Divided into 3 periods:

1. Pre-implantation-1st week
2. Embryonic period-2nd week to 8 week- Most critical period, because of development in external & internal structures.  
For examples- placenta formation, head, and neck development.
3. Fetal period- last 2 trimesters

# WHAT IS FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Fetal alcohol syndrome is growth, mental, and physical problems that may occur in a baby, when a mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy.

When a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, it easily passes across the placenta to the fetus.

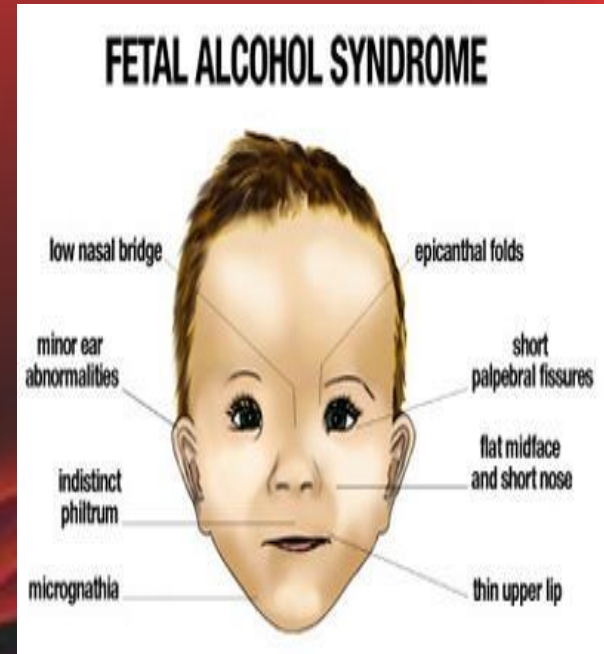
Fetal Alcohol syndrome can happen at any time during pregnancy. However, it's most harmful during the first 3 months of pregnancy.



# SIGNS OF FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Fetal alcohol syndrome is not a single birth defect. It's a group of problems that includes:

1. Prenatal & postnatal growth deficiency
2. Mental disabilities
3. Facial disturbance such as:
  - ❖ Small head circumference
  - ❖ Low nasal bridge
  - ❖ Short nose
  - ❖ Small midface
  - ❖ Widely spaced eyes with epicanthic folds & eye fissures
  - ❖ Indistinct philtrum · Thin upper lip



# ORAL ABNORMALITIES

- Anterior open bite
- Crowding of dentition
- Breathing through the mouth
- Gingivitis



# ROLE OF THE DENTAL TEAM

Dental team are in a unique position to aid children with fetal alcohol syndrome because, oftentimes, they may see patients on a more frequent basis than a physician.

They also help the child's primary care physician to diagnose patients early.

Children who are diagnosed early on have a better chance of overcoming the these conditions.



**Play it Smart. Alcohol and Pregnancy  
Don't Mix!**

