

THIRD TRIMISTER OR TRIMISTER 3

Below is a **clear, structured, and educational overview of the Third Trimester (Trimester 3) of pregnancy.**

⚠️ Disclaimer:

This information is for general education only and is **not medical advice**.

For medical decisions, consulting a qualified healthcare professional is recommended.

✿ Third Trimester (Week 28–40)

The **third trimester** is the final stage of pregnancy. During this period, the baby grows rapidly, and the mother's body prepares for labor and delivery. Careful monitoring is especially important in this phase.

1. Common Physical Changes & Symptoms

Many symptoms in the third trimester are due to the baby's increased size and pressure on the mother's body.

Common (Usually Normal) Symptoms

- ✓ Back pain
- ✓ Swelling of feet, ankles, and hands
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Frequent urination
- ✓ Heartburn and indigestion
- ✓ Braxton Hicks contractions (practice contractions)
- ✓ Difficulty sleeping
- ✓ Pelvic pressure
- ✓ Fatigue

2. Third Trimester Health Risks & Concerns

Some health risks are more likely to appear or worsen during this stage.

Important Risks to Be Aware Of

1. High Blood Pressure (Pregnancy-related)

- Can develop or worsen in late pregnancy.
- Requires regular monitoring.

2. Gestational Diabetes

- High blood sugar levels during pregnancy.
- Can affect both mother and baby if unmanaged.

3. Preterm Labor

- Labor that begins before 37 weeks.
- Early detection is important.

4. Pre-eclampsia

- A condition involving high blood pressure and other symptoms.
- Needs medical supervision.

Warning Signs (Seek Medical Attention)

- ! Severe headaches
 - ! Vision problems (blurred vision, flashes)
 - ! Sudden swelling of face or hands
 - ! Severe abdominal pain
 - ! Reduced fetal movement
 - ! Vaginal bleeding or fluid leakage
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3. Diet & Nutrition (Third Trimester)

Nutrition in the third trimester supports fetal growth and prepares the mother for delivery.

Important Nutrients

Protein □ Supports baby's rapid

growth.

- Sources: eggs, lean meat, beans, dairy.

Calcium □ Essential for baby's bones and

teeth.

- Sources: milk, yogurt, cheese, fortified foods.

Potassium

- Helps manage muscle cramps and fluid balance.
- Sources: bananas, potatoes, oranges.

Iron

- Prevents anemia and supports oxygen supply.
- Sources: spinach, lentils, red meat.

Fluids

- Prevents dehydration and supports circulation.

4. Foods to Include

- ✓ Fresh fruits and vegetables
- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Lean proteins
- ✓ Low-fat dairy products
- ✓ Healthy fats (nuts, seeds, olive oil)

🚫 5. Foods & Substances to Avoid

- ✗ Alcohol
 - ✗ Smoking
 - ✗ High caffeine intake
 - ✗ Raw or undercooked foods
 - ✗ High-sodium processed foods
 - ✗ Sugary snacks in excess
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6. Precautions & Healthy Habits

✓ Physical Activity

- Light walking or gentle stretching if approved by a professional.
- Avoid strenuous exercise.

✓ Rest & Posture

- Use pillows for sleep support.
- Avoid standing for long periods.

✓ Fetal Movement Monitoring

- Pay attention to baby's movements.
- Reduced movement should be discussed with a professional.

✓ Prenatal Visits

- More frequent checkups are common in this trimester.
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7. Preparation for Birth

During the third trimester, many women prepare for delivery by:

- ✓ Learning about labor signs
 - ✓ Planning hospital or clinic visits
 - ✓ Preparing a birth plan
 - ✓ Packing a hospital bag
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8. Emotional & Mental Well-being

It is common to feel:

- Excited
- Anxious
- Nervous about delivery

Helpful practices:

- ✓ Relaxation exercises
 - ✓ Deep breathing
 - ✓ Talking with family or support persons
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9. Summary Table

Category Key Points

Trimester Weeks 28–40

Common Symptoms Swelling, fatigue, back pain

Main Risks High BP, gestational diabetes

Key Nutrients Protein, calcium, iron

Focus Areas Monitoring, rest, preparation

Medical Attention Reduced movement, bleeding