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# Placental abruption

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## Definition

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## Definition

By Mayo Clinic staff

Placental abruption (abruption placentae) is an uncommon yet serious complication of pregnancy.



Placental abruption

The placenta is a structure that develops in the uterus during pregnancy to nourish the growing baby. If the placenta peels away from the inner wall of the uterus before delivery — either partially or completely — it's known as placental abruption. Placental abruption can deprive the baby of oxygen and nutrients and cause heavy bleeding in the mother.

Placental abruption often happens suddenly. Left untreated, placental abruption puts both mother and baby in jeopardy.

Symptoms

## Mayo Clinic products and services

Announcing: Pregnancy coaching service available to Minnesota residents

Book: Mayo Clinic Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy

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## See Also

Placenta: How it works, what's normal

Home birth: Know the pros and cons

## References

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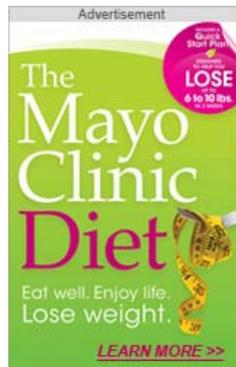
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