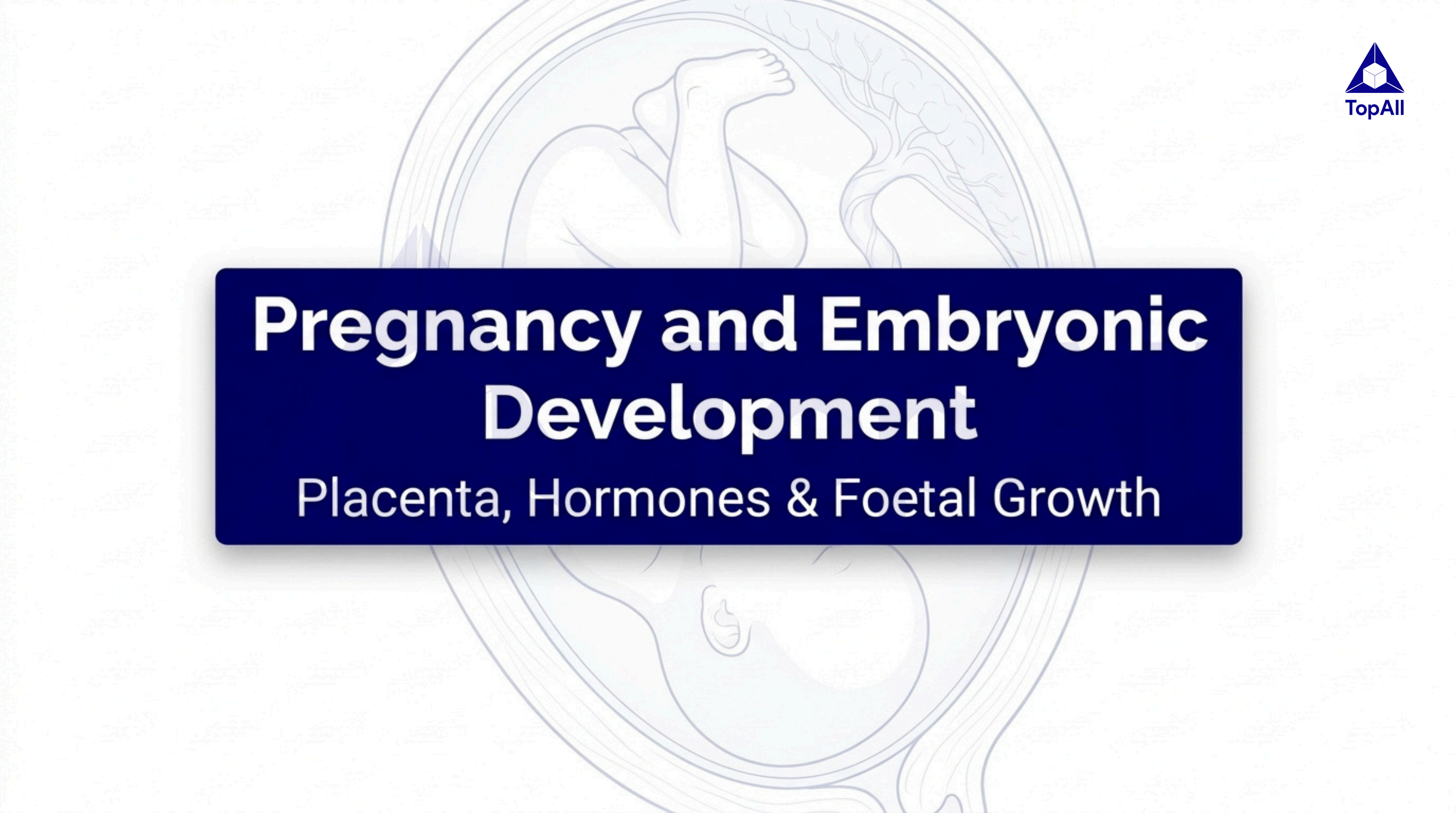
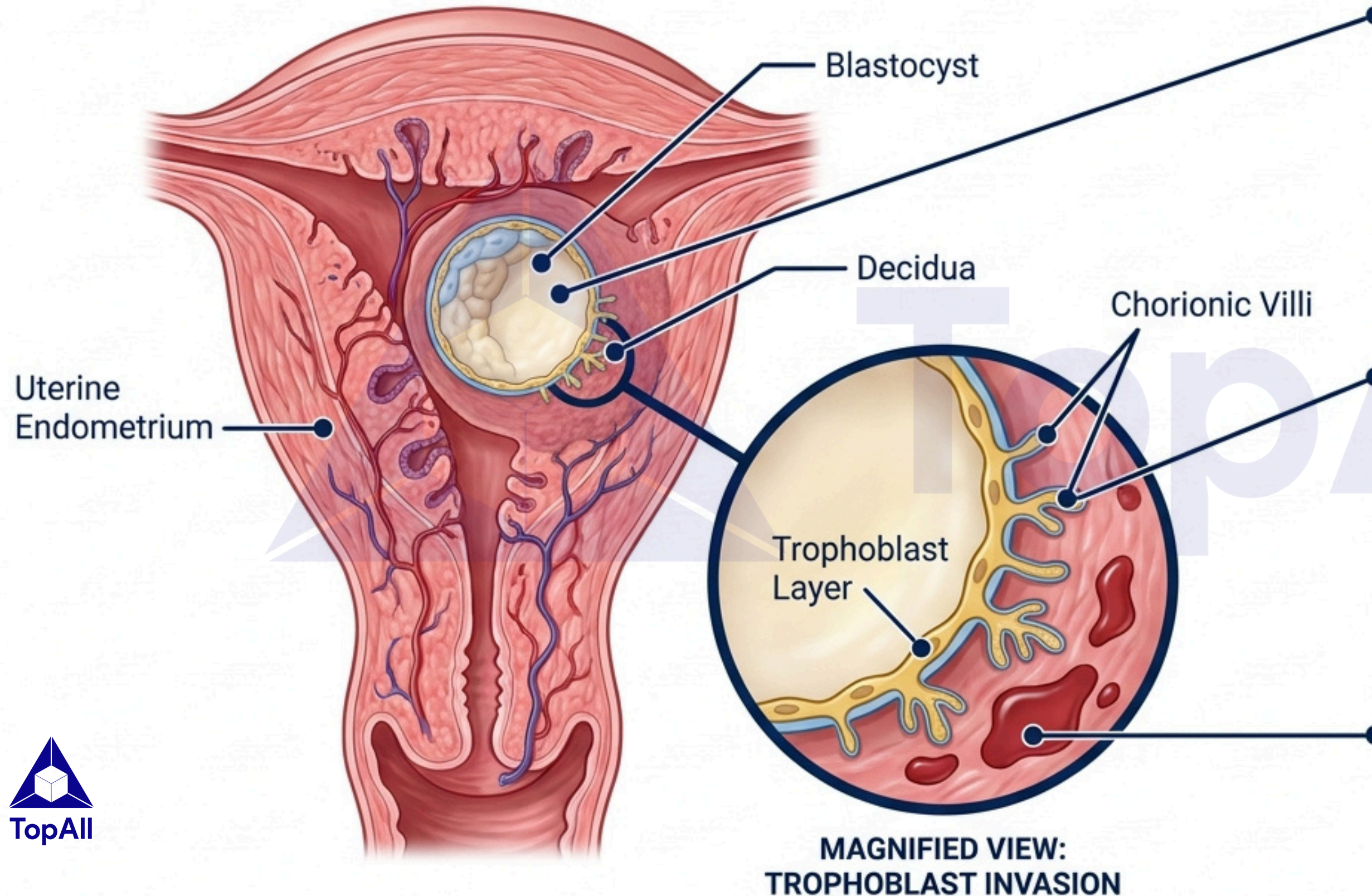




Pregnancy and Embryonic Development

Placenta, Hormones & Foetal Growth

Post-Implantation Changes



Card 1

Blastocyst Embedded

Settled securely in the thick lining of the uterine endometrium.

Card 2

Chorionic Villi Formation

The trophoblast layer develops sprouting, finger-like projections.

Card 3

Maternal Environment

These new villi are entirely surrounded by maternal uterine tissue and maternal blood.

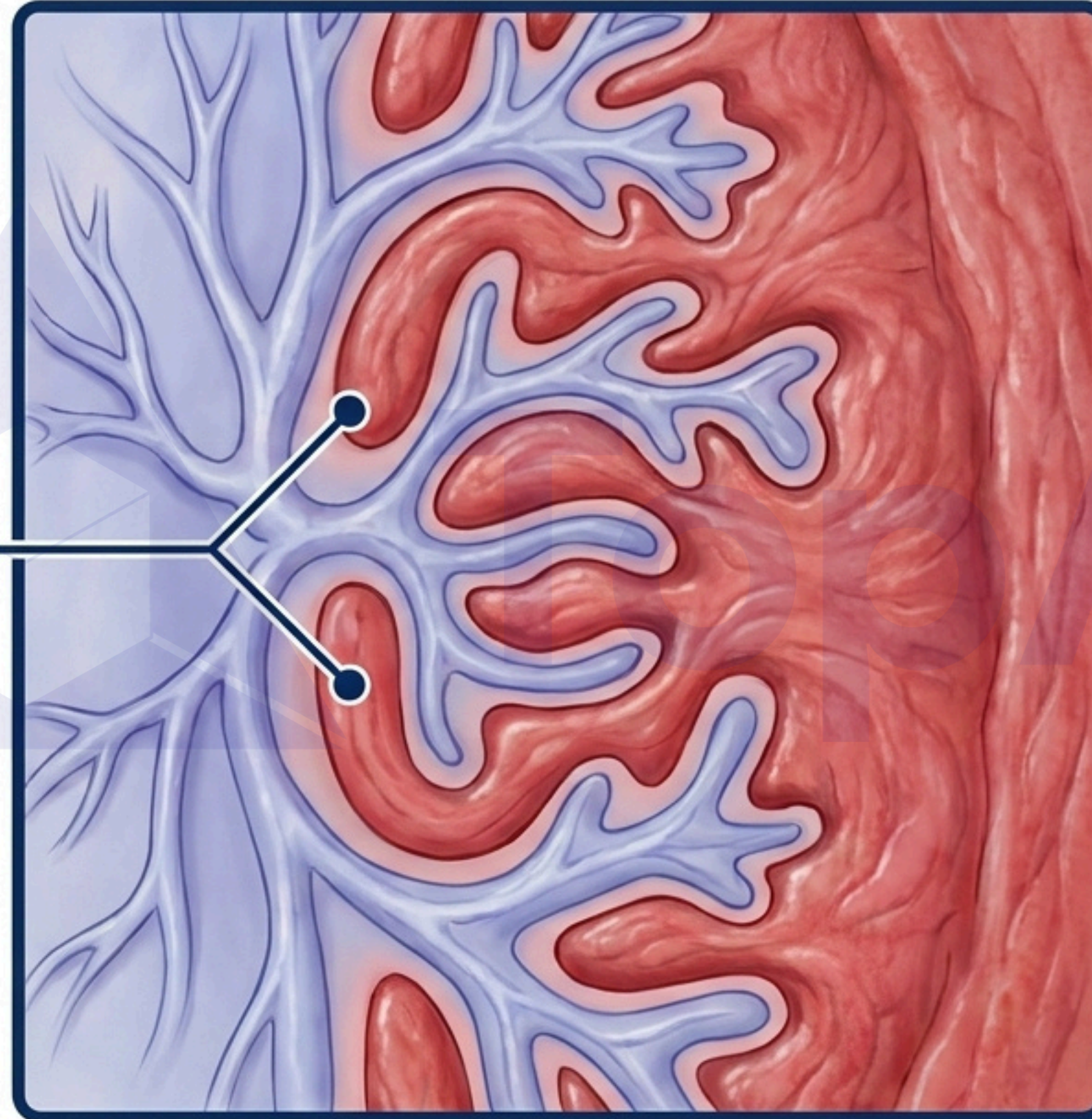


TopAll

Formation of the Placenta

Interdigitation

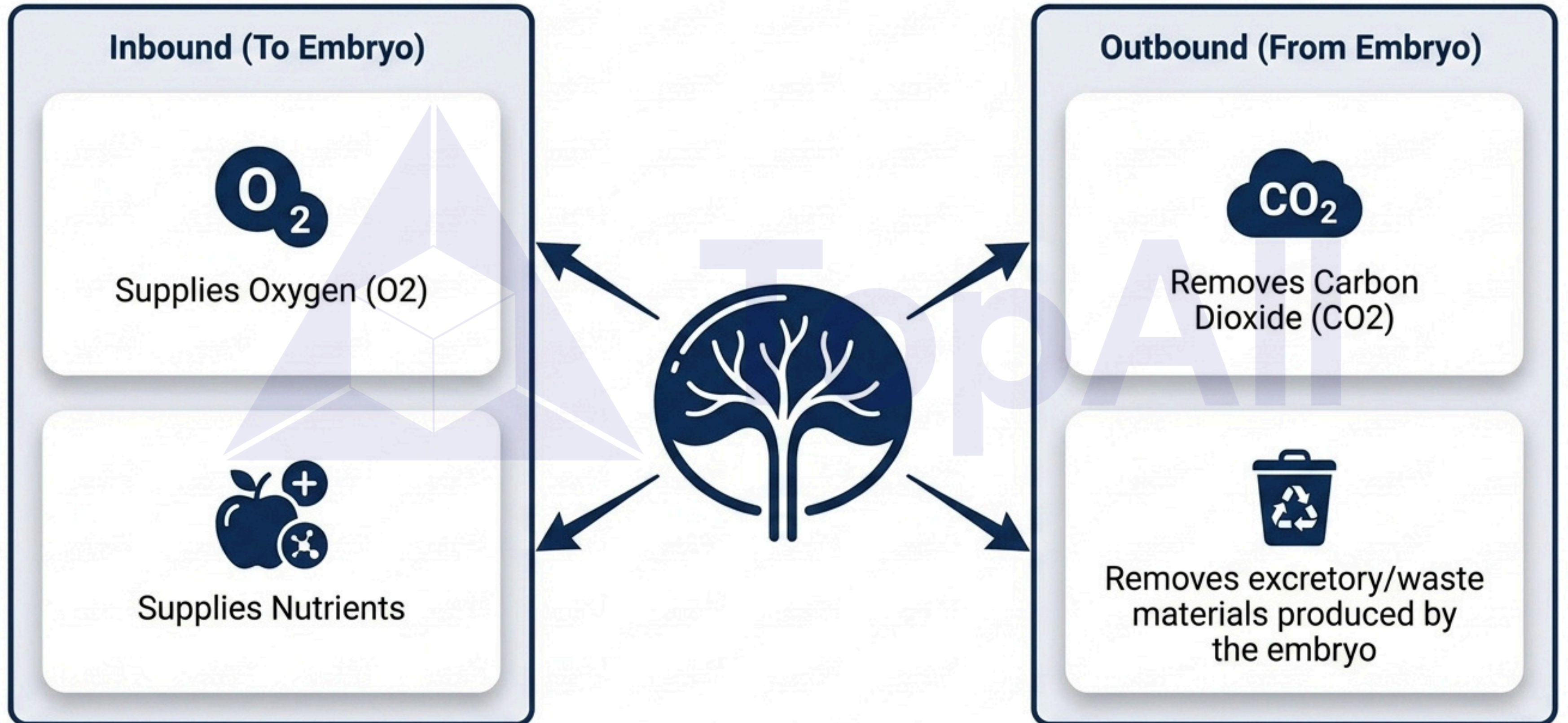
Chorionic villi (foetal) and uterine tissue (maternal) become highly interdigitated with each other.



Unified Structure

Jointly, they form a structural and functional unit between the developing foetus and the maternal body: the Placenta.

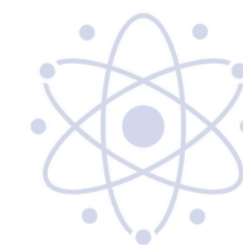
Placenta as a Life-Support System





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Let's Test Them Now.**

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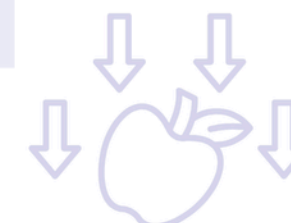
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The Umbilical Cord



Physical Connection

The placenta is connected to the embryo by the umbilical cord.

Transport Highway

Facilitates the continuous two-way transport of essential substances to and from the embryo.

Endocrine Functions During Pregnancy



Placental Hormones (Produced ONLY during pregnancy)

hCG

hPL

Estrogens

Progestogens

Maternal Blood Surge

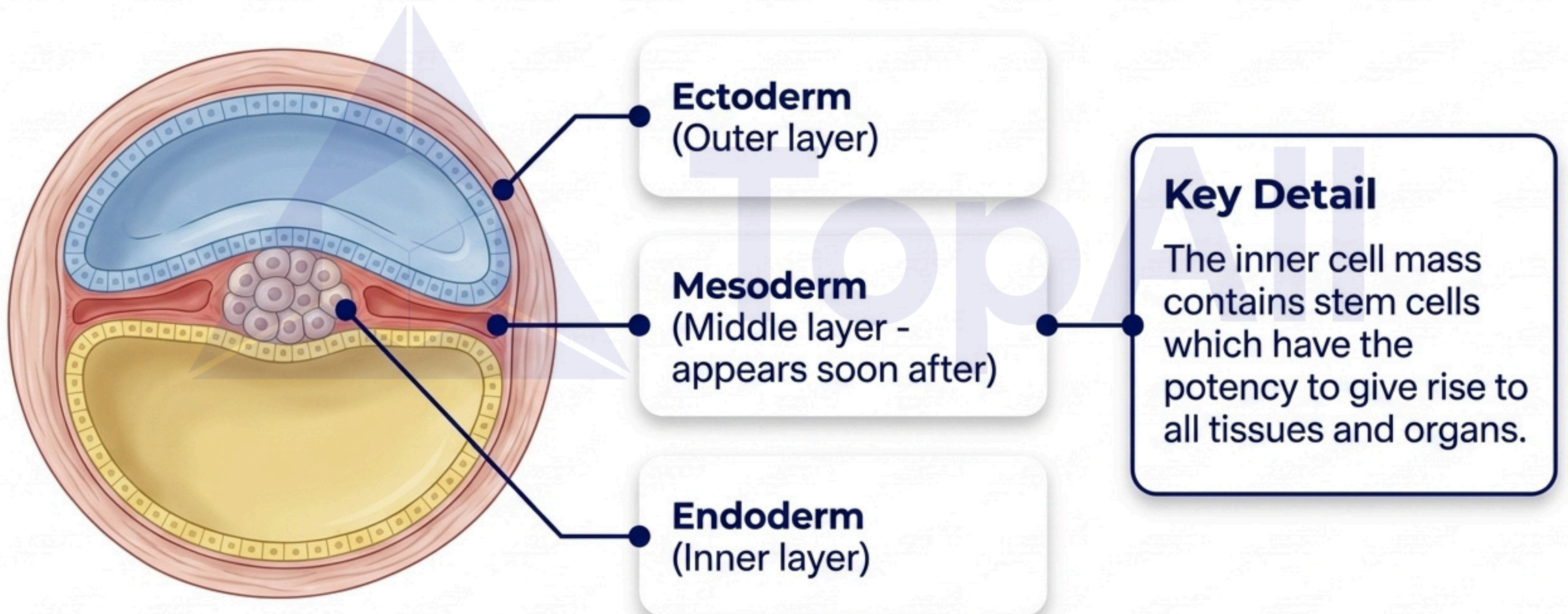
Levels of cortisol, prolactin, and thyroxine increase several-folds to support fetal growth and maternal metabolism.

⚠ NEET Exam Trap

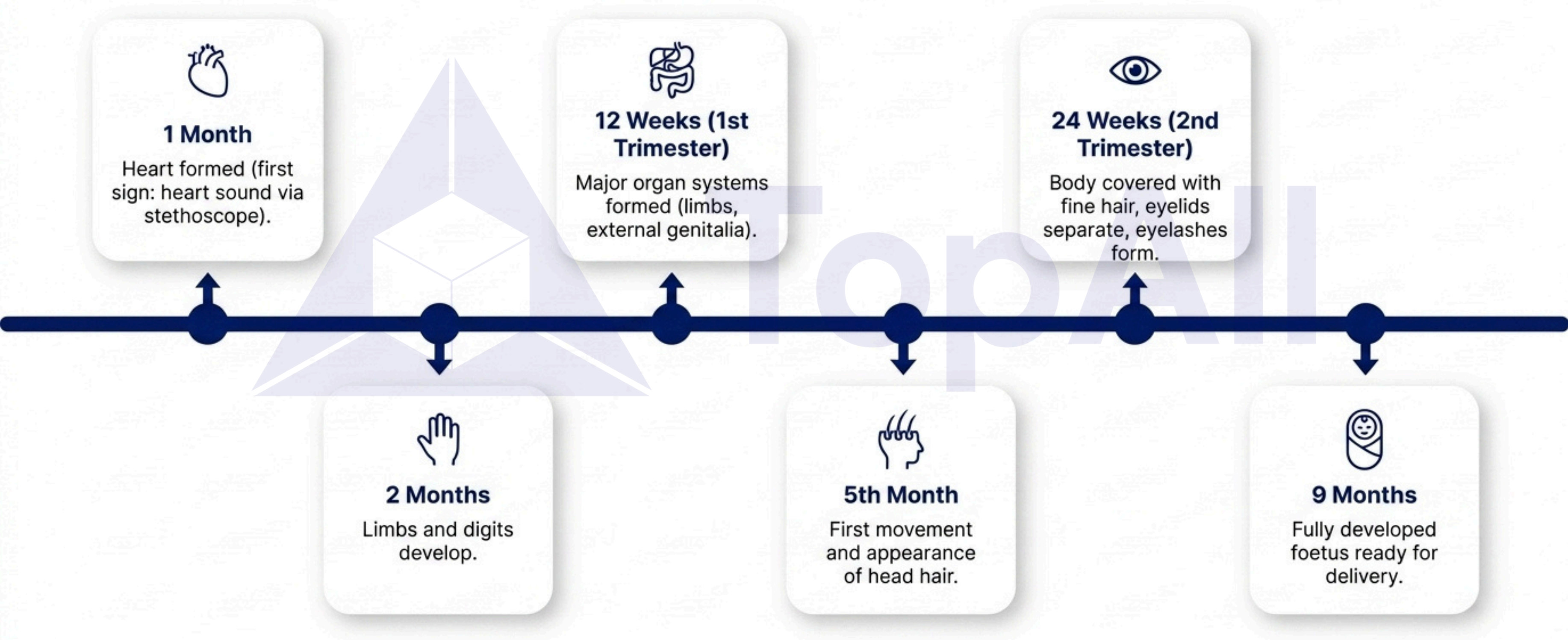
Relaxin is secreted by the ovary (not the placenta) in the later phase of pregnancy. It is also produced ONLY during pregnancy.

Embryonic Blueprint: The Germ Layers

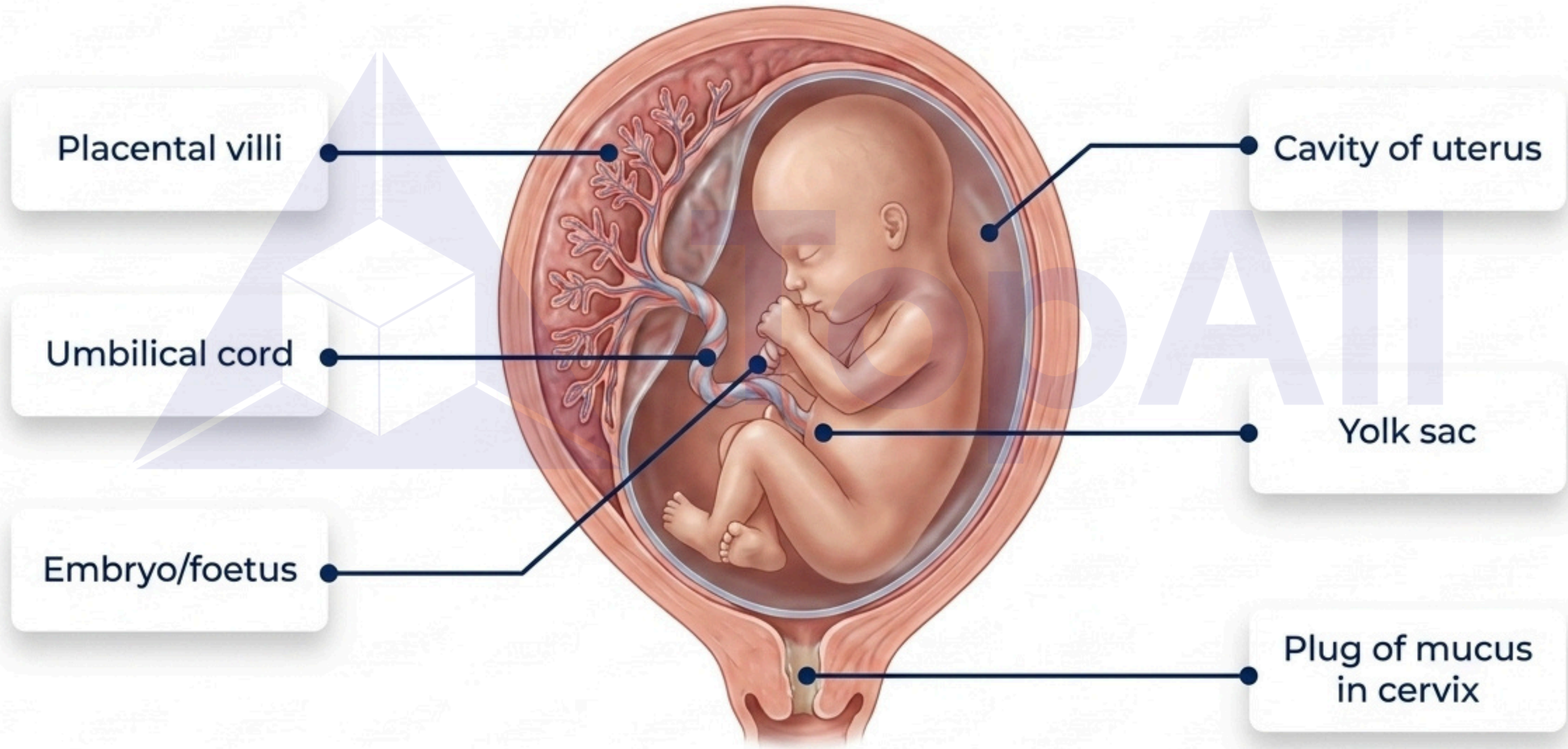
Immediately after implantation, the inner cell mass differentiates into three layers that give rise to all adult tissues and organs:



Month-by-Month Foetal Development



The Human Foetus Within the Uterus



NEET Takeaway



Placenta supports exchange and hormone secretion; three germ layers form adult tissues; human pregnancy lasts about nine months.



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