

If your pregnancy is healthy,  
it's best to stay pregnant  
for at least **39 weeks**.

Lots of important things are happening  
to your baby in the last few weeks of  
pregnancy:

- 1 Important organs, like your baby's brain, lungs and liver, are still developing and growing.

A baby's brain at 35 weeks weighs  
only two-thirds of what it will weigh  
at 39 to 40 weeks.



35 weeks



39 to 40 weeks

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The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

**2** Your baby's eyes and ears are still developing, too. Babies born too early are more likely to have vision and hearing problems later in life.

**3** Your baby is still learning to suck and swallow. Babies born early sometimes can't do these things.

Staying pregnant for at least 39 weeks gives your baby the time he needs to grow before he's born. Talk to your provider about things you can do to help you and your baby get to at least 39 weeks. Births scheduled before 39 weeks should only be for medical reasons. If your pregnancy is healthy, wait for labor to begin on its own.



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**Spanish: #37-2527-10 Folleto del desarrollo cerebral prematuro casi a término**

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