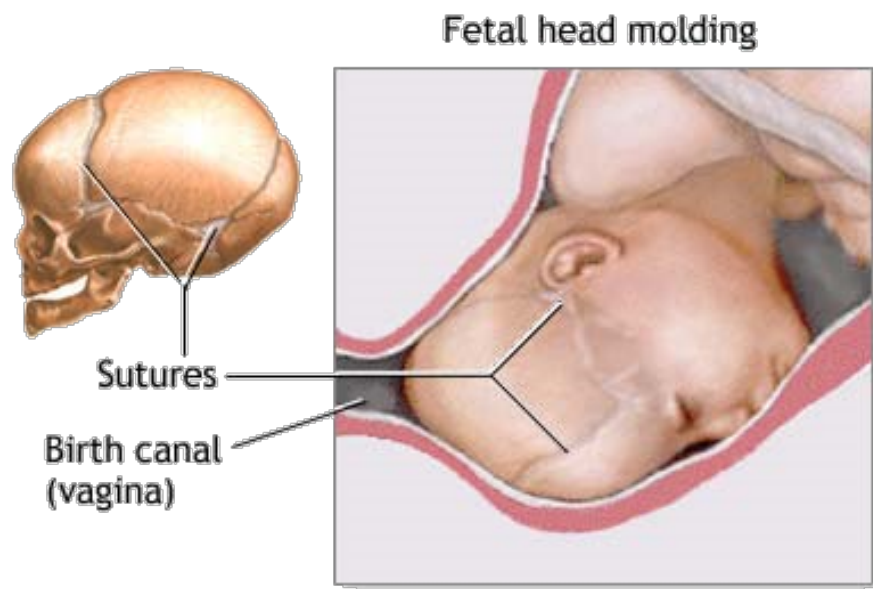


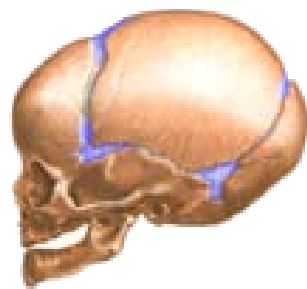
A **fontanelle (or fontanel)** is one of two "soft spots" on a newborn human's skull.



Fontanelles are soft spots on a baby's head which, during birth, enable the soft bony plates of the skull to flex, allowing the head to pass through the birth canal. Fontanelles are usually completely hardened by a child's second birthday, and will eventually form the sutures of the neurocranium. The skull of a newborn consists of five main bones: two frontal bones, two parietal bones and one occipital bone. These are joined by fibrous sutures (immovable joints) which allow movement that facilitates child birth and brain growth.



ADAM.



Fontanelles  
in blue

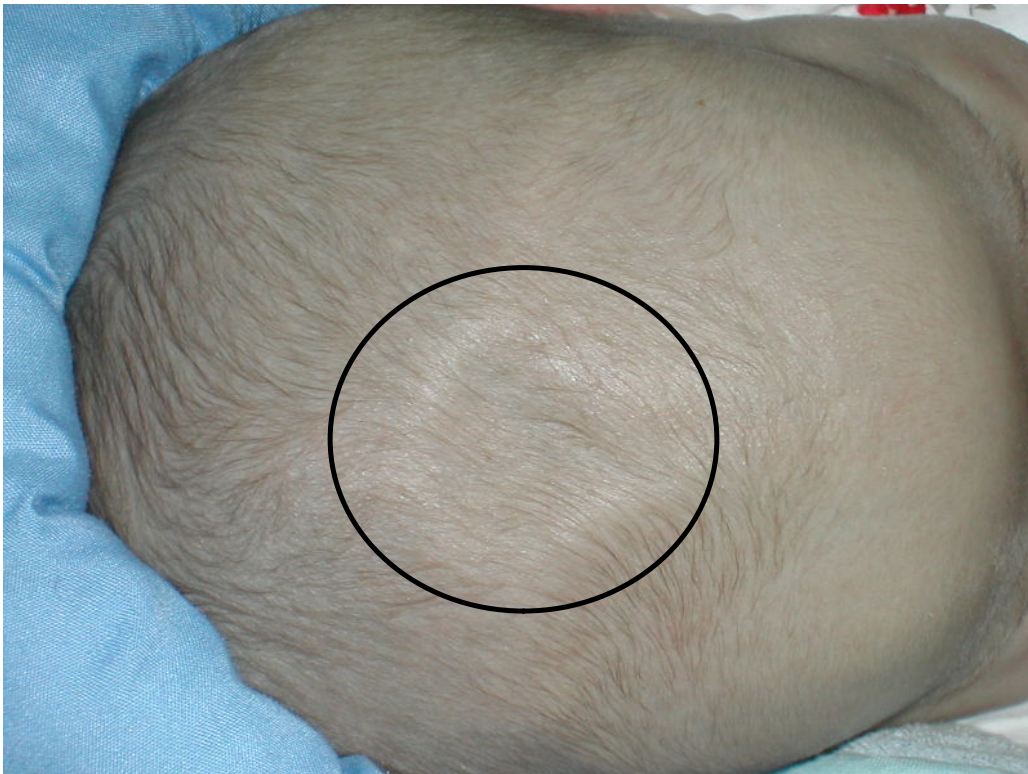


Minutes after birth



After 24 hours

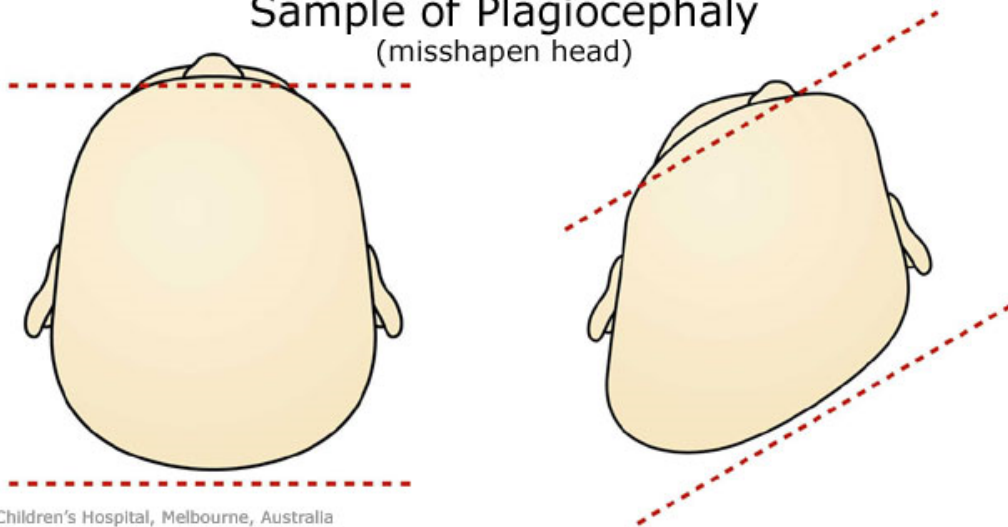




### What is plagiocephaly?

Plagiocephaly sometimes referred to as "flat-head syndrome," is a deformation of the skull, often caused by babies lying on their backs (crib, car seat, swings, bouncy seat, etc.) in the same position for long periods of time. Because of a newborn's rapid rate of head growth and since his/her skull is still relatively soft, that constant pressure in the same spot can cause the bones of the skull and face to shift, resulting in head deformity and facial asymmetry. Plagiocephaly can also occur prior to birth as a result of pressure inside the mother's uterus (breech babies, twins and multiples, larger babies, small maternal pelvis, small or large amount of amniotic fluid).

### Sample of Plagiocephaly (misshapen head)



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