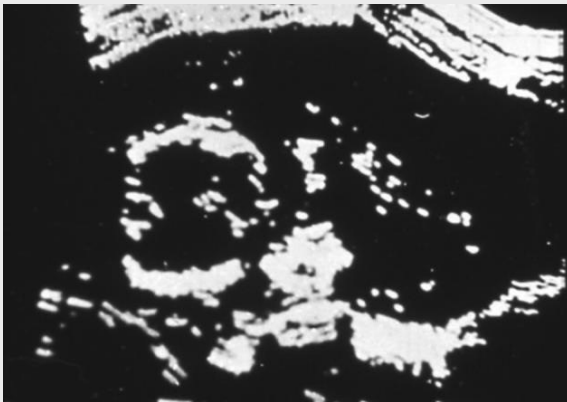


The myth that unborn children can't feel pain is outdated.

- The idea that unborn babies don't feel pain is rooted in a **bygone era when newborns were strapped down for surgery without pain relief**. The myth that unborn children can't feel pain is just as outdated as the belief that pain medication was unnecessary for newborns.

Science does not stand still.

- In the 1970s, ultrasound images were black and white dots. Today, they are 3D and 4D. As our ability to observe unborn babies has advanced, so has scientific knowledge advanced.



Ultrasound scan from the 1970s



Modern ultrasound

- A decade ago, science knew that unborn babies experienced pain as early as 20 weeks. Dr. Stuart Derbyshire, one of the world's leading neuroscientists, published a major study in 2010 placing the onset of fetal pain at approximately 24 weeks.
- By 2020, **the weight of new scientific evidence** caused Dr. Derbyshire and other scientists to conclude that **unborn babies can experience pain by at least 15 weeks**.

Unborn babies can experience pain by at least 15 weeks.

- There is [substantial new scientific evidence](#) that an unborn child can experience pain by 15 weeks and probably even earlier.
- A functioning cerebral cortex is not required for a fetus to feel pain. This has been proven by [science](#) and [observation](#): children born without a cortex often respond to pain in the same way as neurotypical children.

Unborn babies receive pain medication during fetal surgery starting at 15 weeks.

- The current [standard](#) of medical care calls for unborn babies to receive pain medication during fetal surgery starting at [15 weeks](#). Life-saving [surgeries performed in utero](#), using [pain medication](#), include treatment for twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and spina bifida.



The Hand of Hope

Modern surgical advances make it possible for babies to receive life-saving treatments while still in the womb. Michael Clancy took this photo of 21 week old Samuel Armas grasping the surgeon's finger during in utero surgery to correct spina bifida.

- By 15 weeks, an unborn baby's heart is pumping [26 quarts of blood](#) per day and has already beat nearly 16 million times.
- At 15 weeks, [nearly 100% of abortions](#) are dilation and evacuation (D&E), more commonly known as "dismemberment" abortions. **A living, pain-capable baby is literally [torn limb from limb](#).**