Quran & Embryology

Step by step explanation of an embryo mentioned in the Quran
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
Allah speaks about the stages of man’s embryonic development
We created man from an extract of clay. Then We made him as a drop in a place of settlement, firmly fixed.

Al-Quran 23:12-14
Then We made the drop into an alaqah, then We made the alaqah into a mudghah...

Al-Quran 23:12-14
What is the meaning of Alaqah?
Then We made the drop into an alaqah, then We made the alaqah into a mudghah...
Then We made the drop into an *alaqah*, then We made the *alaqah* into a *mudghah*...

In Arabic word ‘*alaqah*’ has 3 meanings:

*Al-Quran 23:12-14*
1
Leech
2
Suspended thing
Blood clot
03

Similarity leech and an embryo
We may find similarity comparing a leech to an embryo.
Also, the **embryo** at this stage obtains nourishment from the **blood** of the mother, similar to the **leech**, which feeds on the **blood** of others.
04

Similarity suspended thing and an embryo
The second meaning of the word alaqah is “suspended thing.”
We can see the suspension of the embryo, during the *alaqah* stage, in the womb (uterus) of the mother.
Embryo size is 0.6mm
Ten cents coin size is **17mm**
Similarity of a blood clot and an embryo
We can find that the external appearance of the **embryo** and its sacs during the **alaqah** stage is similar to a blood clot.
Embryo’s Sacs

large amounts of blood
Diagram of the primitive cardiovascular system in an embryo during the *alaqah* stage.

Image courtesy from the book *The Developing Human* by Dr. Moore.
This is due to the presence of relatively large amounts of blood present in the embryo during this stage.
So the **three** meanings of the word *alaqah* correspond accurately to the **descriptions** of the embryo at the *alaqah* stage.
What is the meaning of Mudghah?
Then We made the drop into an alaqah, then We made the alaqah into a mudghah...

Al-Quran 23:12-14
Then We made the drop into an alaqah, then We made the alaqah into a mudghah...

Arabic word *mudghah* means “chewed substance.”
If one were to take a piece of gum and chew it in his or her mouth...
...and then compare it with an embryo at the mudghahah stage...
...we would conclude that the embryo at the mudghahah stage acquires the appearance of a chewed substance.”
This is because of the somites at the back of the embryo that somewhat resemble teethmarks in a chewed substance.
Chewed bubble gum
Photograph of an embryo at the *mudghah* stage—28 days old
Did you know?

Hamm and Leeuwenhoek were the first scientists
Did you know?

...to observe human sperm cells using an improved microscope in 1677.
Did you know?

It is more than 1000 years after Quran was sent to our Prophet

Photograph of an embryo at the mudghah stage—28 days old
Conclusion
All this knowledge are discovered by our prophet Muhammad PBUH
1400 years ago
When scientists have only recently discovered this using advanced equipment which did not exist at that time.
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Nothing but Knowledge

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