Basic facts of human sexual anatomy and reproduction

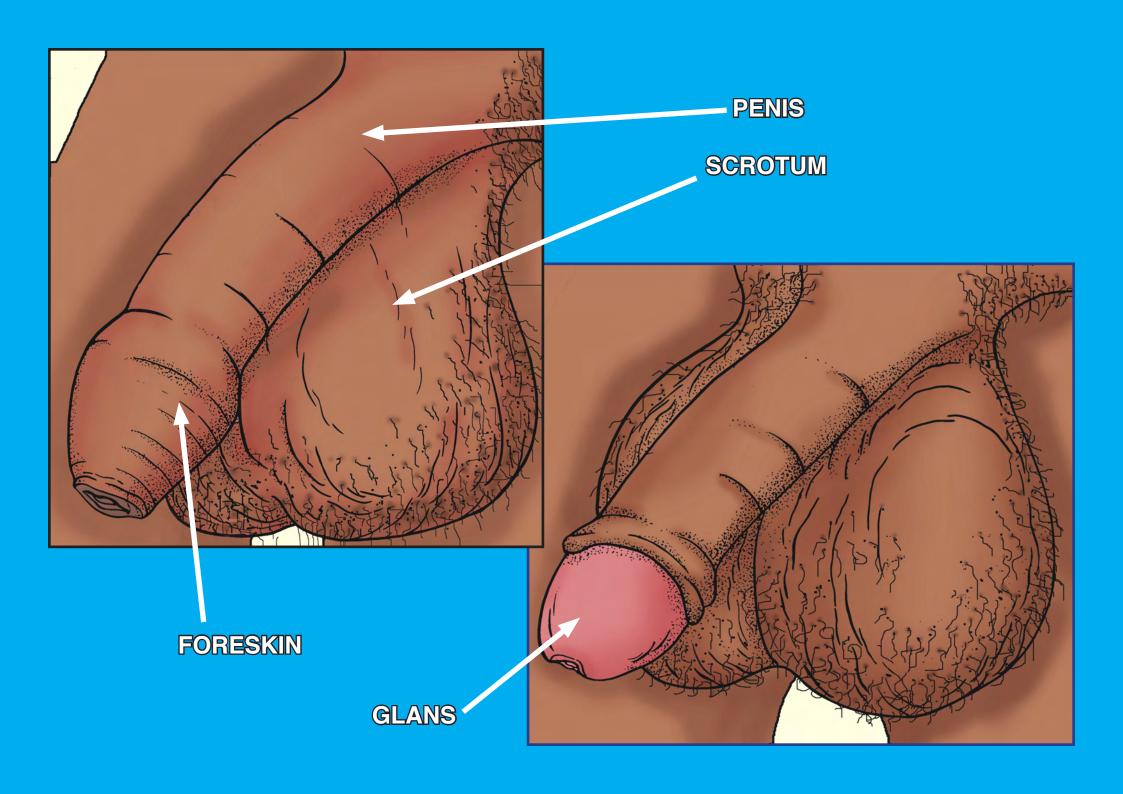
- * This is only a preliminary and incomplete set of cartoons, with English text. As funding becomes available, we plan to develop additional cartoons to cover the remaining topics in human reproduction and sexual health.
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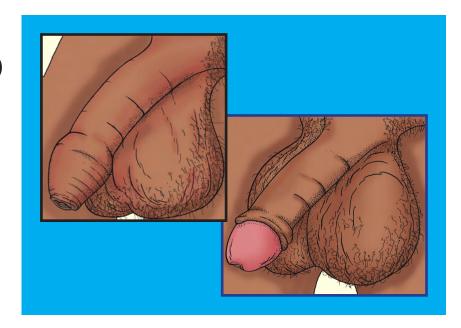
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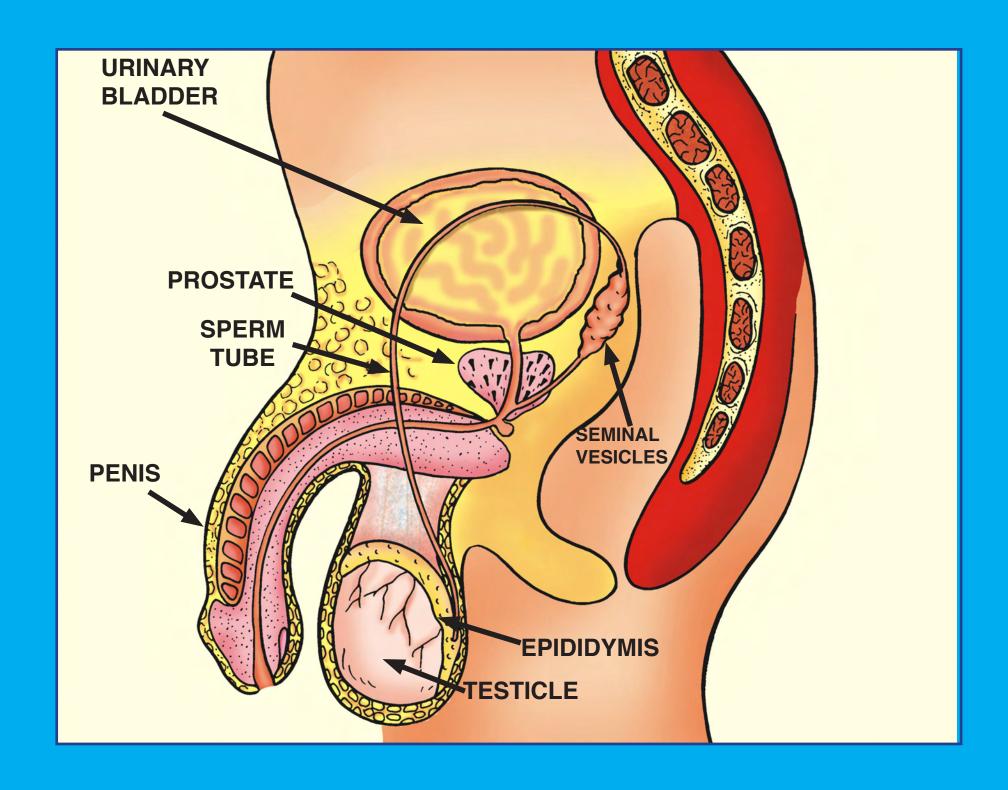
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MALE EXTERNAL GENITALS (UNCIRCUMCISED & CIRCUMCISED)

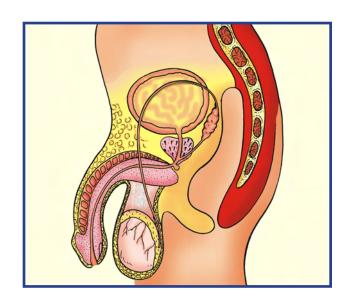


- The **PENIS** is the male sex organ
- The **SCROTUM** is the bag that holds the **TESTICLES**.
- The penis is normally covered by foreskin. In some cultures, the foreskin is removed, sometimes at birth, sometimes at older age. This removal of foreskin is called **CIRCUMCISION**.
- A circumcised penis always shows the glans of the penis.
- In an uncircumcised penis, the **GLANS** (the head of the penis) becomes only visible when the foreskin is pulled back.
- When a boy reaches puberty, pubic hair starts growing around this area, which some men shave off.

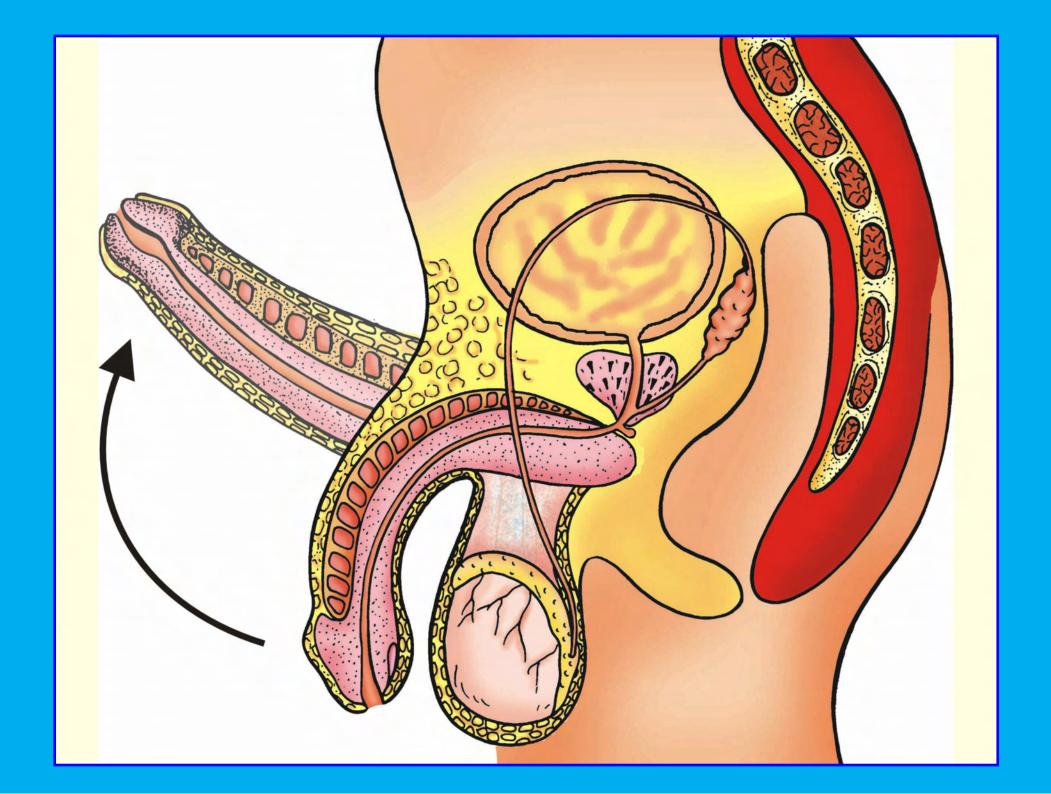


MALE INTERNAL GENITALS

• The two **TESTICLES** make the **SPERM**. The sperm cells are microscopic cells with tails that try to join the egg of a woman and make her pregnant. A healthy testicle produces many millions of sperm cells each day. The testicles also produce the male hormone, **TESTOSTERONE**. When a boy matures into a man, these male hormones are responsible for many body changes (such as the growth of a beard/moustache, the changing of the voice).

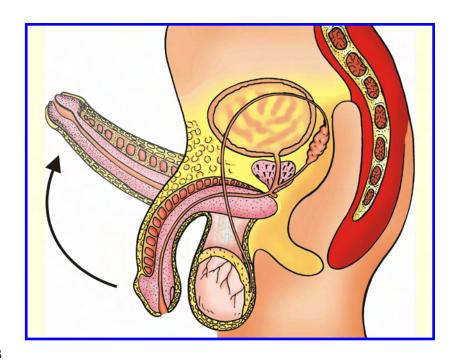


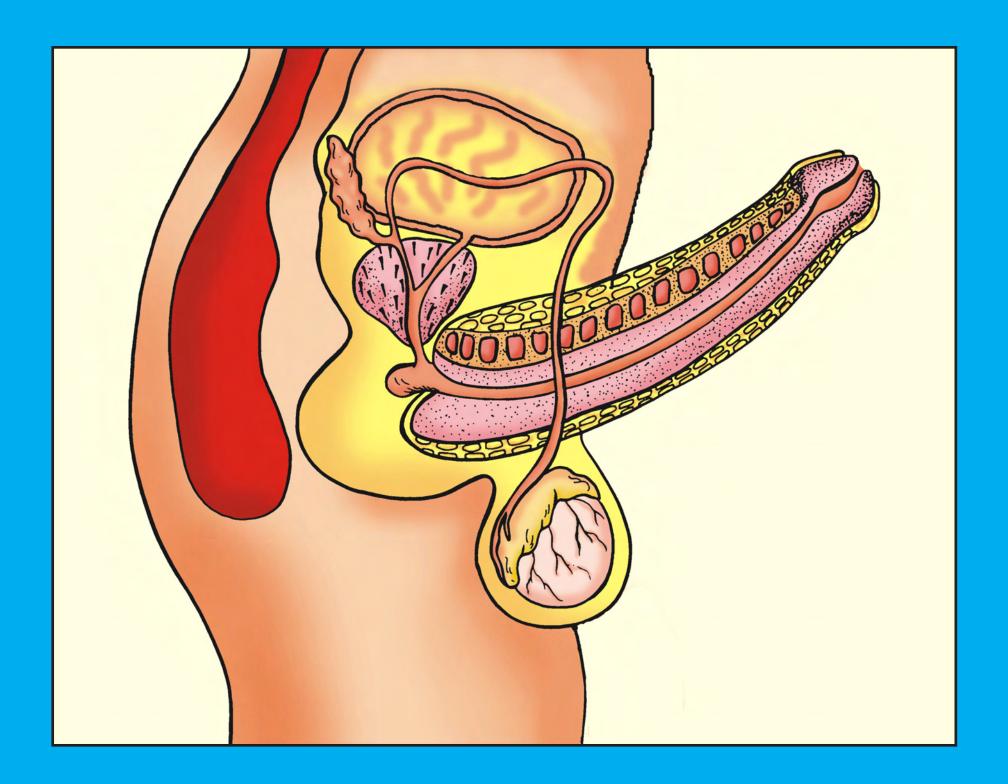
- The 2 testicles are in a bag, called **SCROTUM**. The reason for this is because the testicles function best at a temperature that is a few degrees lower than the temperature inside of the body.
- The sperm cells go from the testicle to the **EPIDIDYMIS** for storage and further maturation. Without sex or masturbation, the sperm cells will eventually die and be resorbed. During sex with a partner or during masturbation, the sperm goes to the SPERM TUBE ("Vas deferens"). Each testicle has a sperm tube. Along the sperm tubes there are several glands, such as the **PROSTATE** and the **SEMINAL VESICLES**, which secrete the liquid (**SEMEN**) that carries the sperm.
- The URINE BLADDER is a bag that stores the urine. As it fills, it stretches and gets bigger.
- The last part of the tube is called the **URINE TUBE** ("**URETHRA**"). It is used to carry the sperm, but also the urine out through the penis.



ERECTION

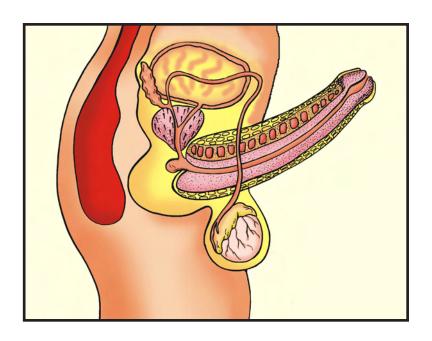
- In rest, the penis is small and flacid. When a man becomes sexually aroused (for example during sex or during masturbation), the penis has cavities that fill up with blood, so the penis becomes enlarged and hard. This is called **ERECTION**.
- At the climax of arousal (the **ORGASM**), the semen fluid with the sperm cells will flow from the testicle through the tube and out of the penis. This is called **EJACULATION**.
- After the ejaculation, the penis becomes small and flacid again.

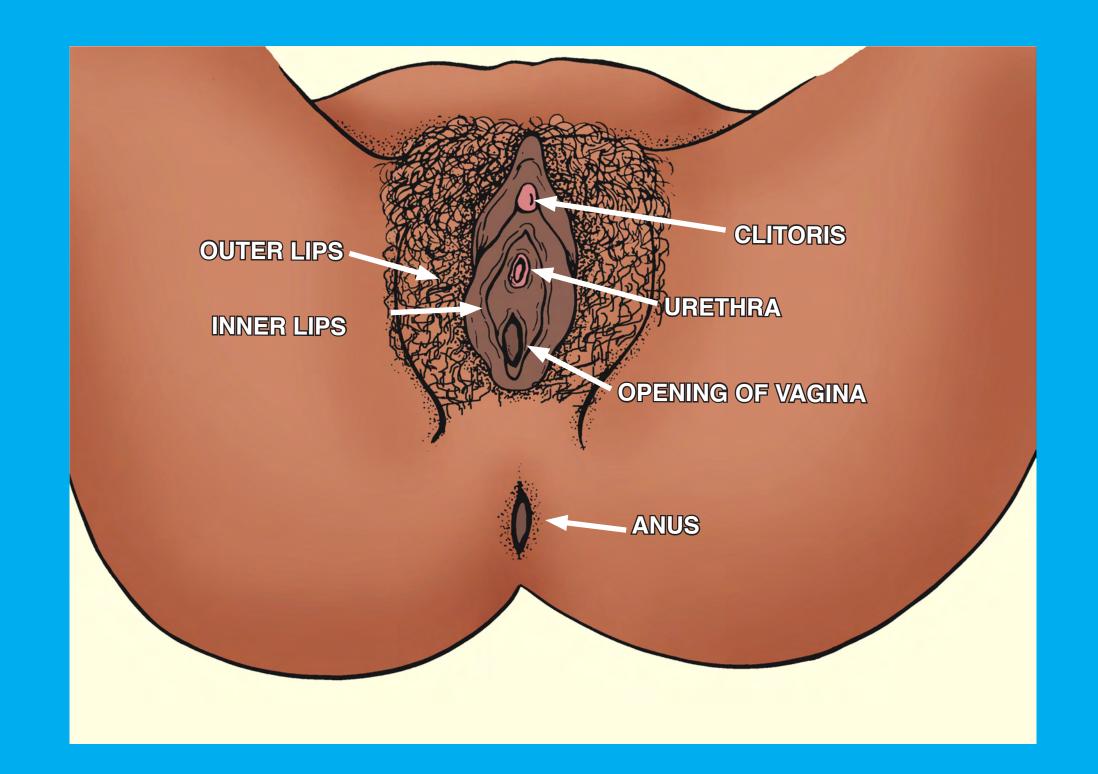




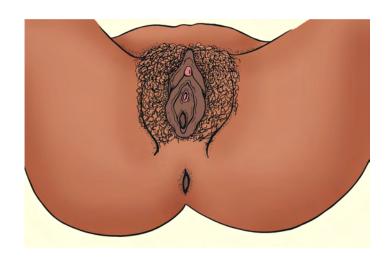
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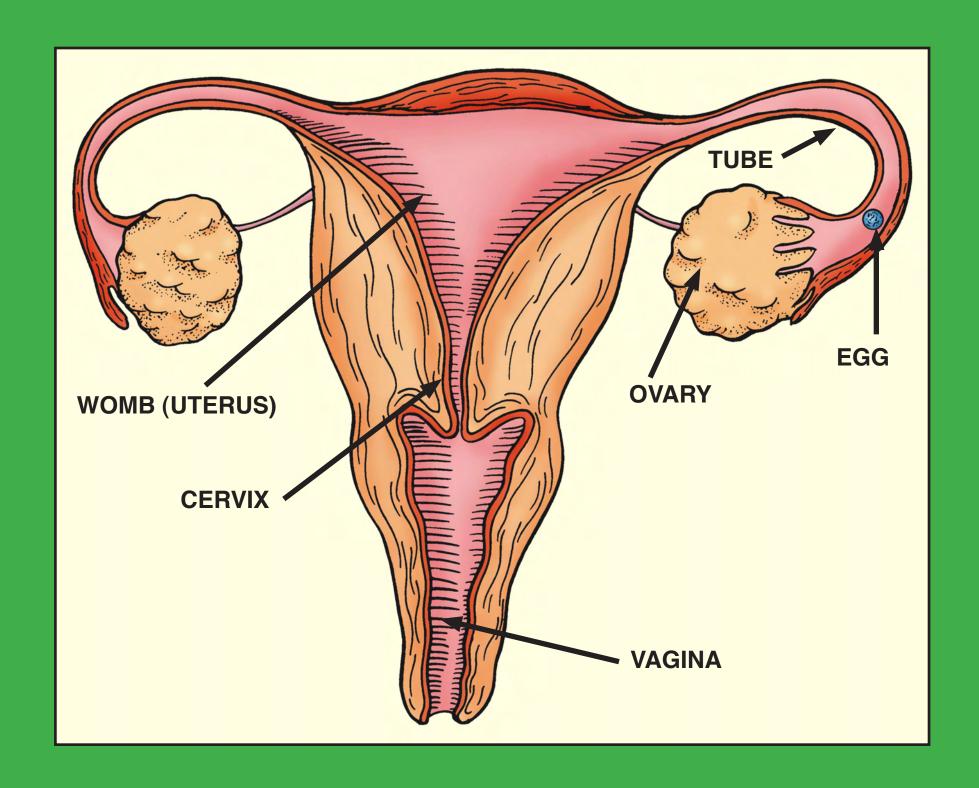




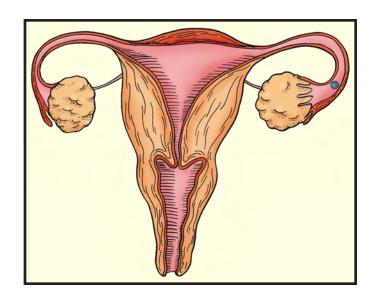
FEMALE EXTERNAL GENITALS



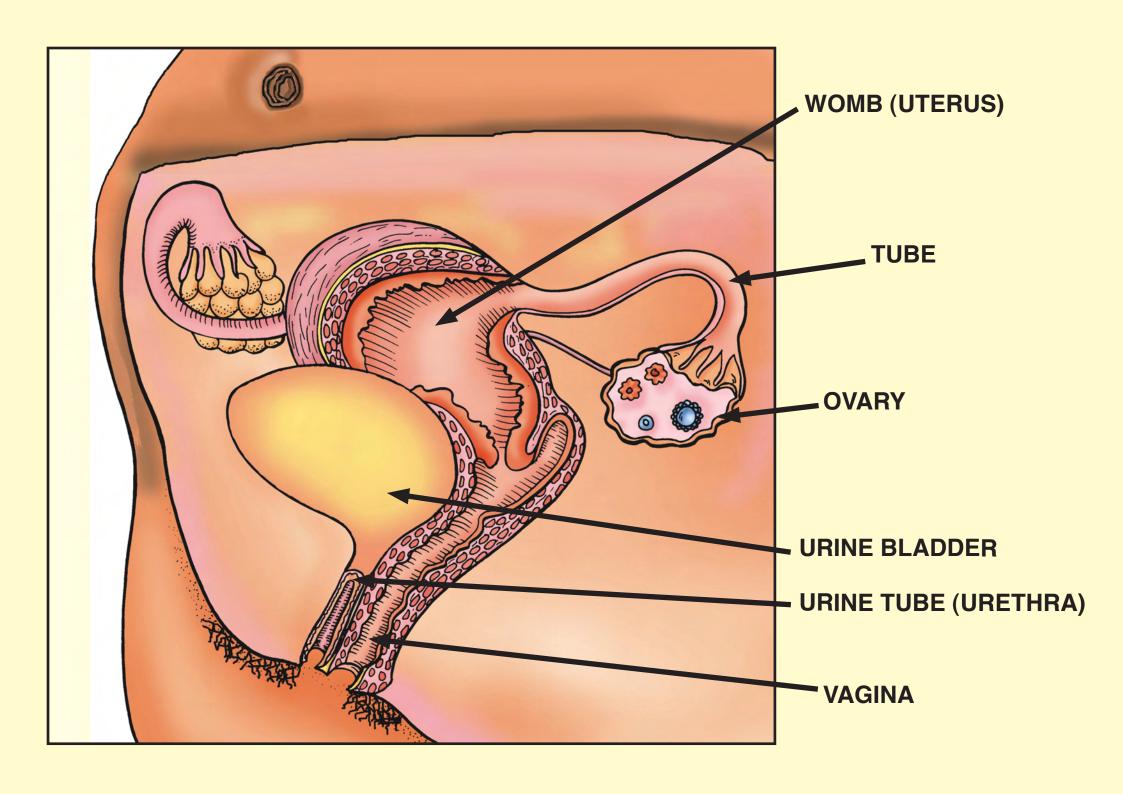
- The CLITORIS is a very sensitive spot that can give sexual pleasure when touched during sex or during masturbation.
- The **URETHRA** is the tube through which urine comes out. The urethra connects the urine bladder to the outside world.
- The **VAGINA** is the birth canal. The opening of the vagina is called the **VULVA**.
- The female external genitals are surrounded by the **INNER and OUTER LIPS**. When a girl reaches puberty, pubic hair starts growing around this area, which some women shave off.
- The **ANUS** is the end of the intestine (where the feces/ poop comes out).



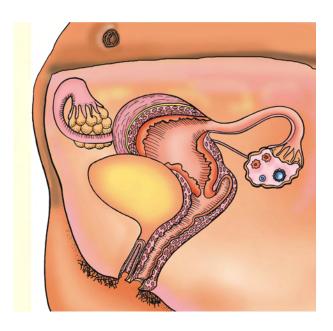
FEMALE INTERNAL GENITALS



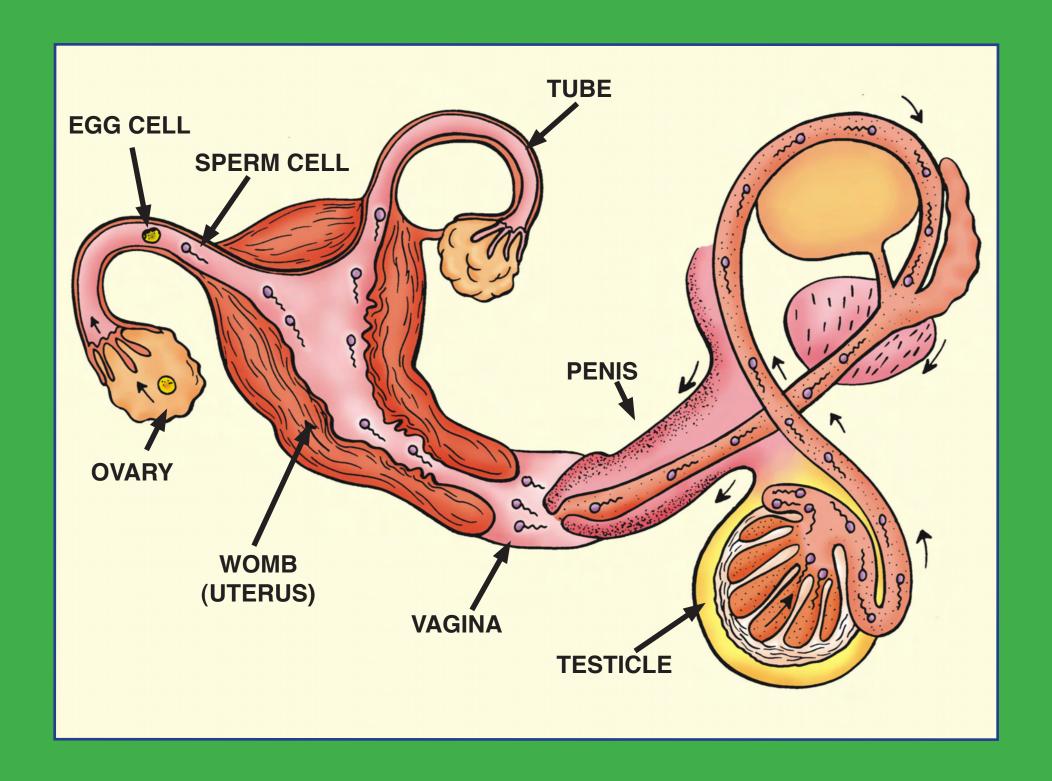
- A woman has normally 2 **OVARIES**. The ovaries is where the eggs are made. The ovaries also produce the female hormones; the 2 main categories of female hormones are estrogens and progesterone. The levels and balance of these hormones determine the monthly cycle that a woman experiences, including the menstruation.
- Once a month, at the time of ovulation, an EGG is released from an ovary and travels through the **TUBE** ("Fallopian tube") towards the womb.
- The **WOMB** (also called "**UTERUS**") is where the baby is normally made.
- When the baby is born, it passes through the **CERVIX** (the "neck" of the womb) towards the **VAGINA**, the birth canal, and then to the outside world,



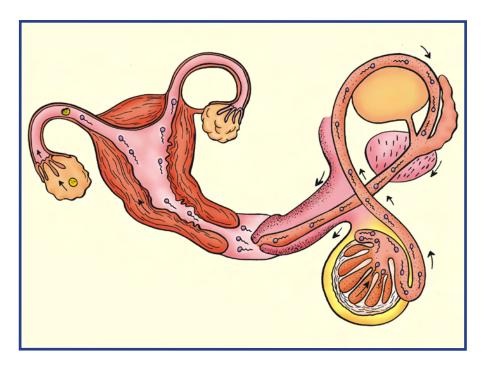
Female genital and urinary tract: combined view



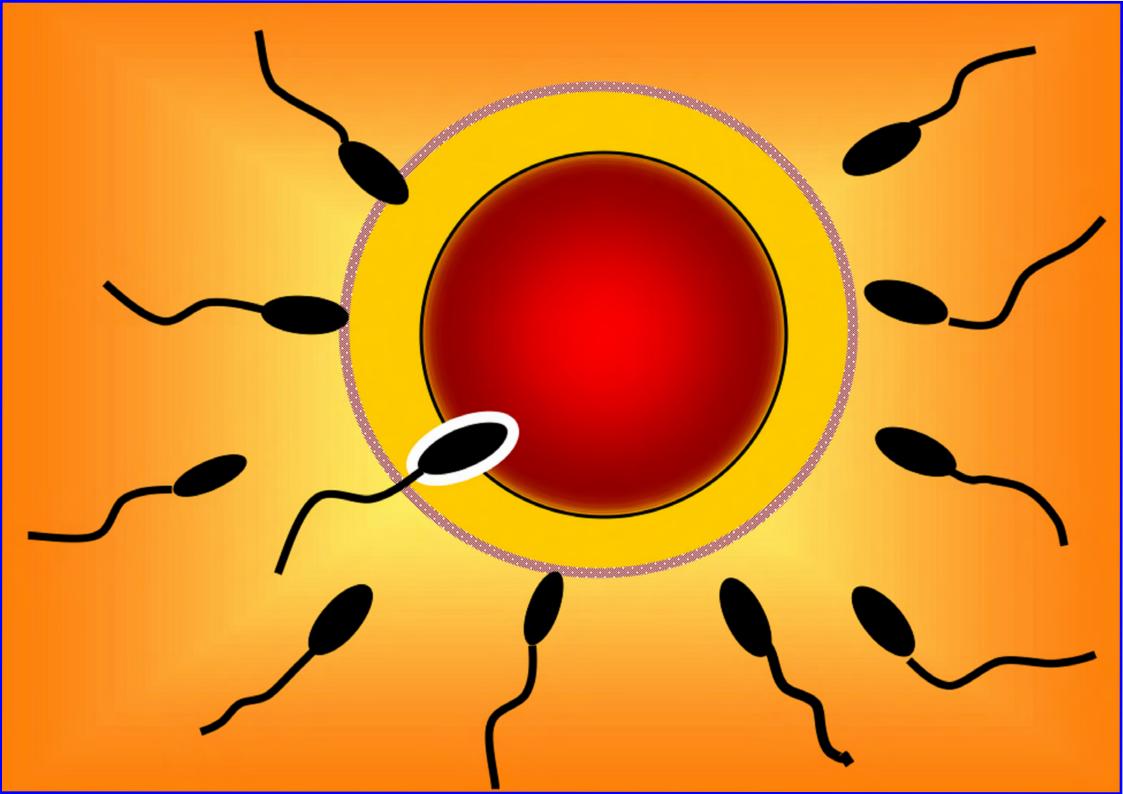
- For an explanation of the organs, see previous pages
- Please note the proximity of the **URINE BLADDER** and the **URINE CANAL** ("**URETHRA**") to the vagina. This explains why sometimes during a difficult delivery of a baby, trauma can lead to a hole ("fistula") that connects the urine canal and the **VAGINA**.



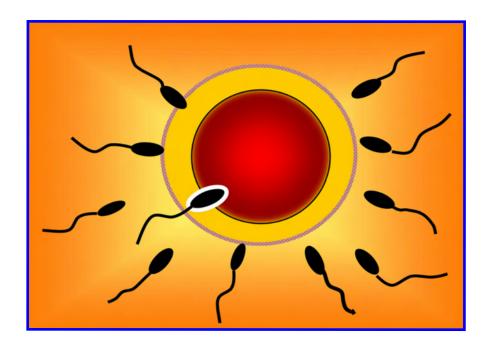
FERTILIZATION: THE SEXUAL ACT



- During sex, the man can insert his erect **PENIS** into the **VAGINA** of the woman.
- When the man reaches his climax ("the **ORGASM**"), **EJACULATION** takes place, and millions of **SPERM** cells are ejected into the vagina.
- The sperm cells, which have a tail, will swim upwards through the **CERVIX** and the **WOMB** (**UTERUS**) towards the **TUBES** to look for an available egg. If no egg is available, then the sperm cells will die off.



FERTILIZATION: The sperm reaches the egg



• If there is an **EGG** in the **TUBE**, then the first **SPERM** cell that will reach the egg will fertilize the egg. Once one sperm cell has entered the egg, the membrane of the egg is no longer permeable for other sperm cells. The fertilized egg will move through the tube and settle in the **WOMB** for further development into a baby.