Chapter 12

The reproductive systems

Ian Peate

Glossary

Adrenal cortex  The outer portion of an adrenal gland.
Androgens  Masculinising male sex hormones produced by the testes in the male and the adrenal cortex in both sexes.
Anterior  Near to the front.
Antiemetic  Anti-sickness medication.
Broad ligament  A double fold of parietal peritoneum attaching the uterus to the side of the pelvic cavity.
Canal  A channel or passageway, a narrow tube.
Connective tissue  The most prominent type of tissue in the body; this tissue provides support.
Corpus albicans  A whitish fibrous patch in the ovary formed after the corpus luteum regresses.
Corpus luteum  A yellowish body found in the ovary when a follicle has discharged its secondary oocyte.
Endometrium  The mucous membrane lining the uterus.

Foetus  The developing organism in utero.

Fimbriae  Finger-like structures found at the end of the fallopian tubes.

Follicle  A secretory sac or cavity containing a group of cells that contains a developing oocyte in the ovary.

Follicle-stimulating hormone  Secreted by the anterior pituitary gland; initiates the development of an ovum.

Gamete  A male or female sex cell.

Glans penis  The enlarged region at the end of the penis.

Gonad  A gland that produces hormones and gametes – in men the testes, in females the ovaries.

Gonadotrophic hormone  Anterior pituitary hormone affecting the gonads.

Haploid  Having half the number of chromosomes.

Hormone  A secretion of endocrine cells that alters the physiological activity of target cells.

Human chorionic gonadotrophin  A hormone produced by the developing placenta.

Inguinal canal  Passage in the lower abdominal wall in the male.

Inhibin  A hormone secreted by the gonads inhibiting the release of FSH by the anterior pituitary.

In utero  Within the uterus.

Isthmus  A narrow strip of tissue or a narrow passage connecting to bigger parts.

Lateral  Farthest from the midline of the body.

Leydig cell  A type of cell that secretes testosterone.

Ligament  Dense regular connective tissue.

Luteinising hormone  A hormone secreted by the anterior pituitary stimulates ovulation and prepares glands in the breast to produce milk. Stimulates testosterone secretion in the testes.

Meatus  A passage or opening.

Meiosis  A kind of cell division occurring during the production of gametes.
### Menopause
The termination of the menstrual cycles.

### Myometrium
The smooth muscle layer of the uterus.

### Oestrogens
Feminising sex hormones produced by the ovaries.

### Orchidopexy
Surgery to move an undescended testicle into the scrotum and permanently fix it there.

### Oocyte
An immature egg cell.

### Oogenesis
Formation and development of the female gametes.

### Ovarian cycle
The ovarian cycle is a series of events in the ovaries that occur during and after the maturation of the oocyte.

### Ovarian follicle
A general name for immature oocytes.

### Ovary
The female gonad.

### Ovulation
The rupture of a mature Graafian follicle with discharge of a secondary oocyte after penetration by sperm.

### Ovum
The female egg cell.

### Penis
The organ of urination and copulation.

### pH
A measure of acidity and alkalinity.

### Phagocytosis
The process by which phagocytes ingest and destroy microbes, cell debris and other foreign matter.

### Placenta
An organ attached to the lining of the uterus during pregnancy.

### Progesterone
A female sex hormone produced by the ovaries.

### Prolactin
A hormone secreted by the anterior pituitary that initiates and maintains milk production.

### Rete
The network of ducts in the testes.

### Scrotum
The skin-covered pouch containing the testes.

### Semen
Fluid discharged by ejaculation.

### Spermatogenesis
The maturation of spermatids into sperm.

### Testes
The male gonads.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Testosterone</strong></th>
<th>Male sex hormone.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Urethra</strong></td>
<td>The tube from the urinary bladder to the exterior of the body that conveys urine in females and urine and semen in males.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Uterus</strong></td>
<td>Hollow muscular organ in the female, also called the womb.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vagina</strong></td>
<td>A muscular tubular organ in the female leading from the uterus to the vestibule.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vas deferens</strong></td>
<td>The main secretory duct of the testicle, through which semen is carried from the epididymis to the prostatic urethra, where it ends as the ejaculatory duct.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vulva</strong></td>
<td>The female external genitalia.</td>
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