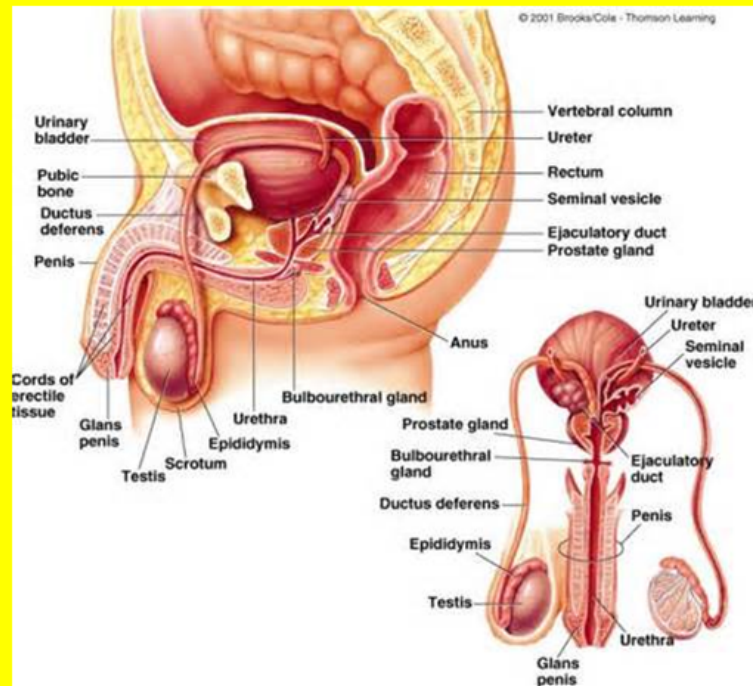


The Male Reproductive System



Let's start with the internal anatomy.
These are parts of the male anatomy
that you cannot see from the outside of
the body.

The Sperm

- The male gamete / sex cell
- Men start producing sperm at puberty (about 12 trillion sperm in a lifetime!)
- One ejaculation (release of semen) contains about 400 million sperm
- Need a specific environment to survive
 - Swim using their flagella (tail)

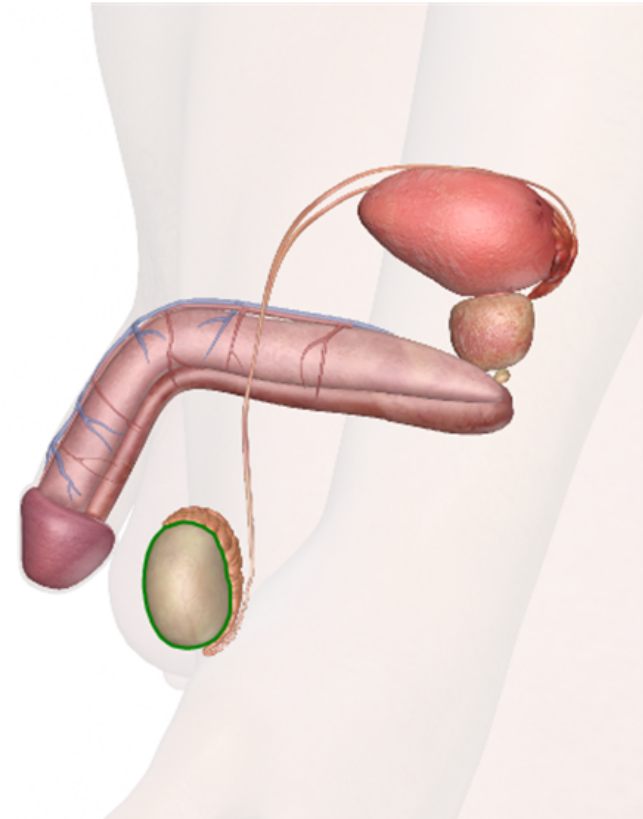


Semen

- Sperm is only 5% of ejaculatory fluid
- Contains a solution that nourishes sperm
- Contains a solution to allow sperm to swim
 - Contains a solution that lowers acidity

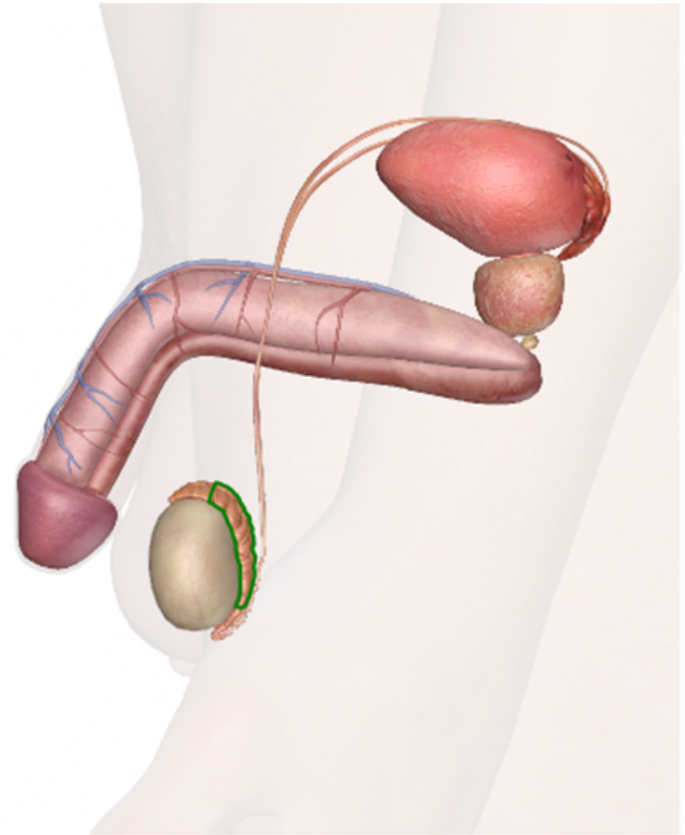
The Testicles / Testes

- Produce sperm
- Produce male hormone (testosterone)
- TSE



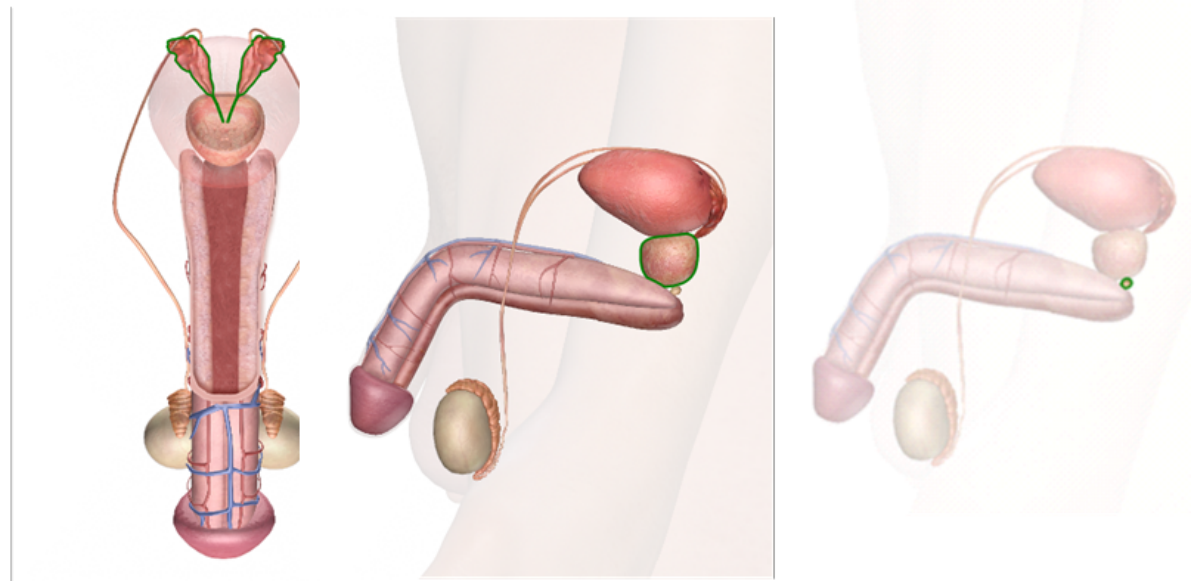
The Epididymis

- Stores sperm to allow it to mature
- Has coiled tunnels where sperm learn to swim
- It takes 10-14 days for sperm to become fully mature
- After sperm have matured, they can be stored for a month until they are ejaculated from the body or they degenerate and are reabsorbed by the body



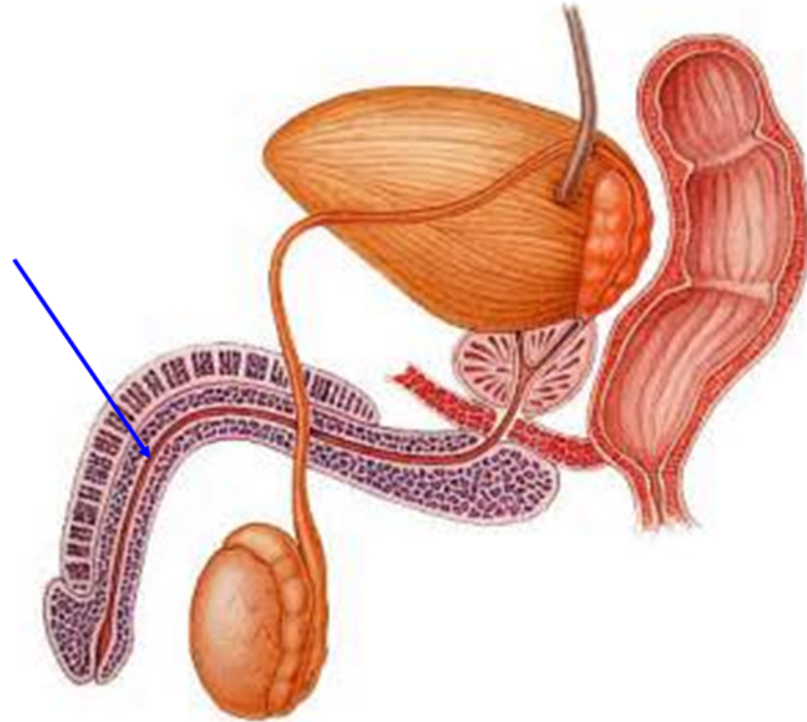
Seminal Vesicle, Prostate Gland, Cowpers Gland

- Create the other 95% of semen



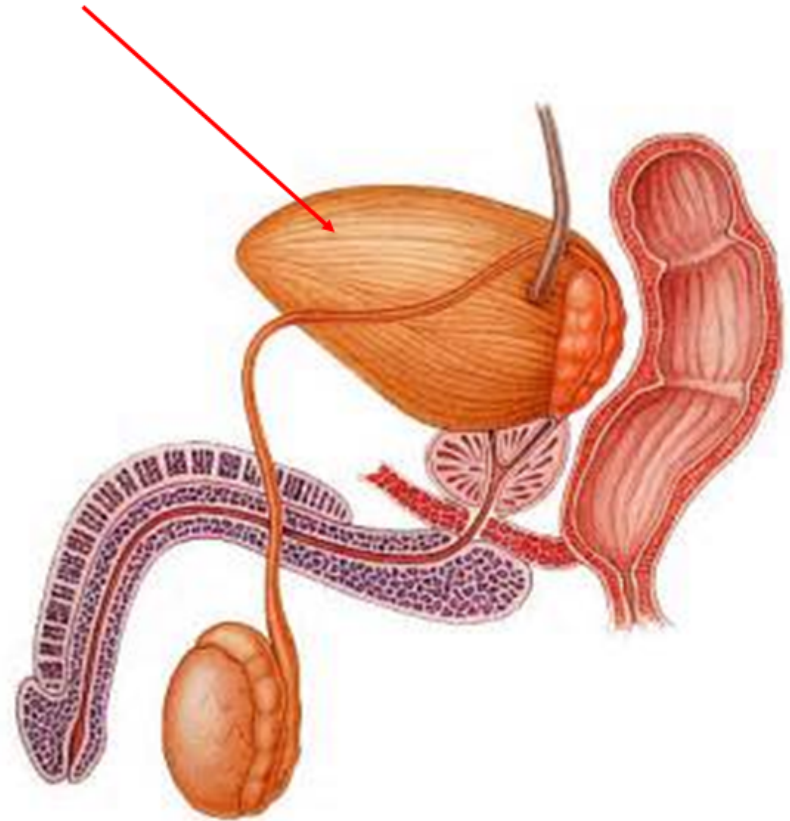
Urethra

- The path that urine and semen takes to leave the body
- Is joined by the vas deferens for ejaculation



Bladder

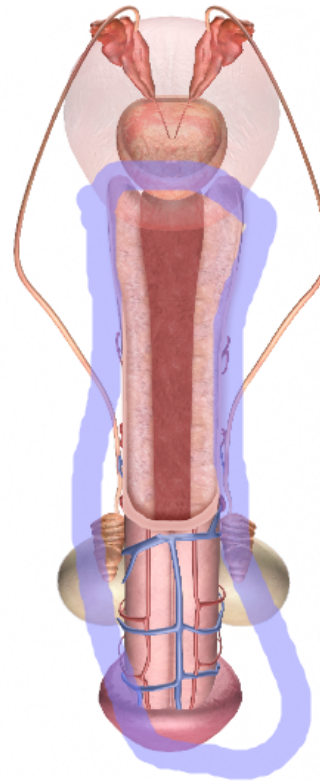
- Even though men have a closed sexual system, and the urethra is much longer in men than women, it is possible for the bladder to get infections
- Stores urine (up to 2 liters)



Now, lets talk about the external anatomy. These are parts that can be seen on the outside of the body.

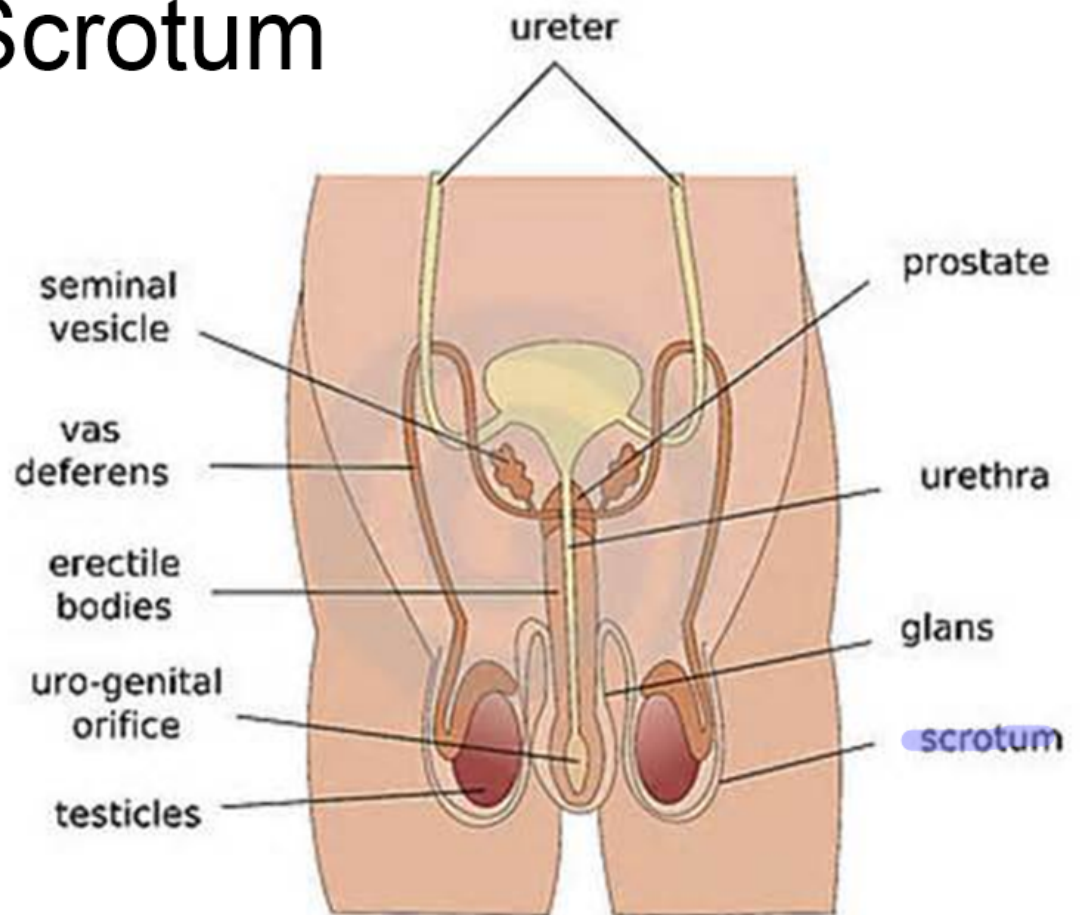
Penis

- Male external urinary and sexual organ
- Contains the external opening of the urethra
- Erectile tissue traps blood to make the penis rigid and erect with stimulation (erections allow sexual intercourse to take place and also for sperm to be deposited deep into the female reproductive tract)



The Scrotum

- A sack of skin that holds the testicles
- Protect the sperm from changes in temperature
- When it is warm, the scrotum relaxes the testicles away from the body, when it is cold, the scrotum contracts pulling the testicles closer to the body



Now, lets talk about the care and special concerns of the male reproductive system.

To keep the male reproductive system healthy, men should...

- Bathe regularly
- Get regular checkups
- Be honest with your doctor
- Wear protective equipment
- Practice abstinence / safer sex
- Be familiar with your body, notice any discharge, pain with urination or any abnormalities with the testicles

- Perform self-examination of the testicles
 - Testicular cancer commonly affects males 14-40 years old
 - What to look for; uncomfortable or painless lumps or swelling in the testicles, pain or discomfort in the testicles or scrotum
 - Hold one of your testicles between your thumbs and fingers of both hands and roll it gently between your fingers - look and feel for any hard lumps or smooth rounded bumps or any change in the size, shape, or consistency of the testicles.