The Male Reproductive System

The reproductive organs of the human male generate sperm and sexual activity may lead to fertilization and pregnancy.

The male reproductive system produces sperm and transfers it to the female reproductive system.

The testes produce sperm and the male hormone, testosterone.

- A hormone is a chemical that regulates body functions.
- Testosterone regulates the development of male traits and the production of sperm (male sex cells).

The testes are stored in the external scrotum.

- The scrotum is about 3°C cooler than body temperature (37°C). The cooler temperature allows sperm to develop.

Sperm are produced in tightly-coiled tubes inside of the testes called seminiferous tubules.

- The epididymis temporarily stores mature sperm cells.
- Each sperm cell has a flagellum for locomotion or movement.
The Path of Sperm

- A tube called the vas deferens passes from each epididymis into the body.
- The prostate gland produces some of the fluid that mixes with sperm as it travels through the vas deferens.
- The mixture of sperm and fluid is called semen.
- During sexual arousal, millions of sperm travel from the vas deferens, down the urethra, and are ejaculated out of the penis.

Ejaculation is the abrupt discharge of semen.

- The urethra is a tube that runs through the penis.
- The penis is the organ that transfers sperm into the female’s body.

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