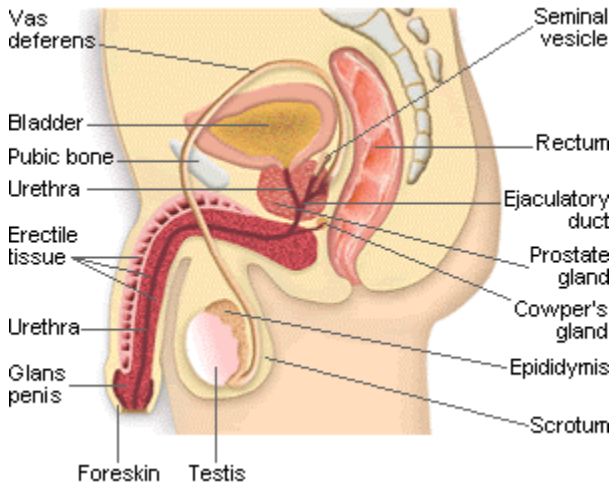


## The Male Reproductive System

The male reproductive system includes structures outside and inside the male's body. The main structures include the penis, scrotum, testes, vas deferens, prostate gland, and the urethra.



When a man's penis enters a woman's vagina and he ejaculates, semen (which contains sperm) is released. The sperm travel through the vagina and up the fallopian tubes. If the man's sperm and the female's egg unite or fertilize, conception occurs and the egg implants itself in the uterus. At this time the woman is considered pregnant. If the sperm does not fertilize an egg, it eventually dies and the egg passes into the uterus and eventually out of the body when the uterus sheds its lining (called menstruation).

The penis is the long shaft where urine is eliminated from the body. It is also where semen, a fluid that contains sperm, leaves the body.

Below the penis is a sac of skin called the scrotum. The scrotum contains the testes.

Testes (testicles) are round glands in the scrotum that produce the male hormone testosterone. They also generate sperm, which are male reproductive cells.

The vas deferens is a thick walled tube, which transports sperm from the epididymis up to the prostate gland.

The prostate gland is a walnut sized organ that produces fluid that nourishes the sperm.

The urethra is the tube that urine and semen is passed through the penis and outside the body.