

Human Reproductive System

The human reproductive system is very complex. There are two kind of reproductive system: male and female. These two systems are quite different.

A girl's reproductive system has two ovaries or woman's sex glands. They are located on each side of the uterus. The main function of these glands is to produce the female sex hormones: estrogen and progesterone. The ovaries undergo cycling changes. The menstrual cycle is influenced by pituitary hormones; they cause an ovum to mature. The maturation period occurs about halfway through the menstrual period.

In adolescence, a girl experiences the development of secondary sexual characteristics, for example enlarged breast and body hair.

A boy's reproductive system has two egg-shaped organs called testicles or male sex glands. The testicles produce sperm; it has spermatozoa and seminal fluids. Each testicle contains over 800 small tubes; they produce hundreds of millions of sperm in response to a hormone produced by the pituitary gland. This gland is located in the brain.

Another hormone from the pituitary gland stimulates the testicles to produce the male sex hormone called testosterone; this hormone is responsible for the male's sexual characteristics such as deep voice and facial and body hair.

