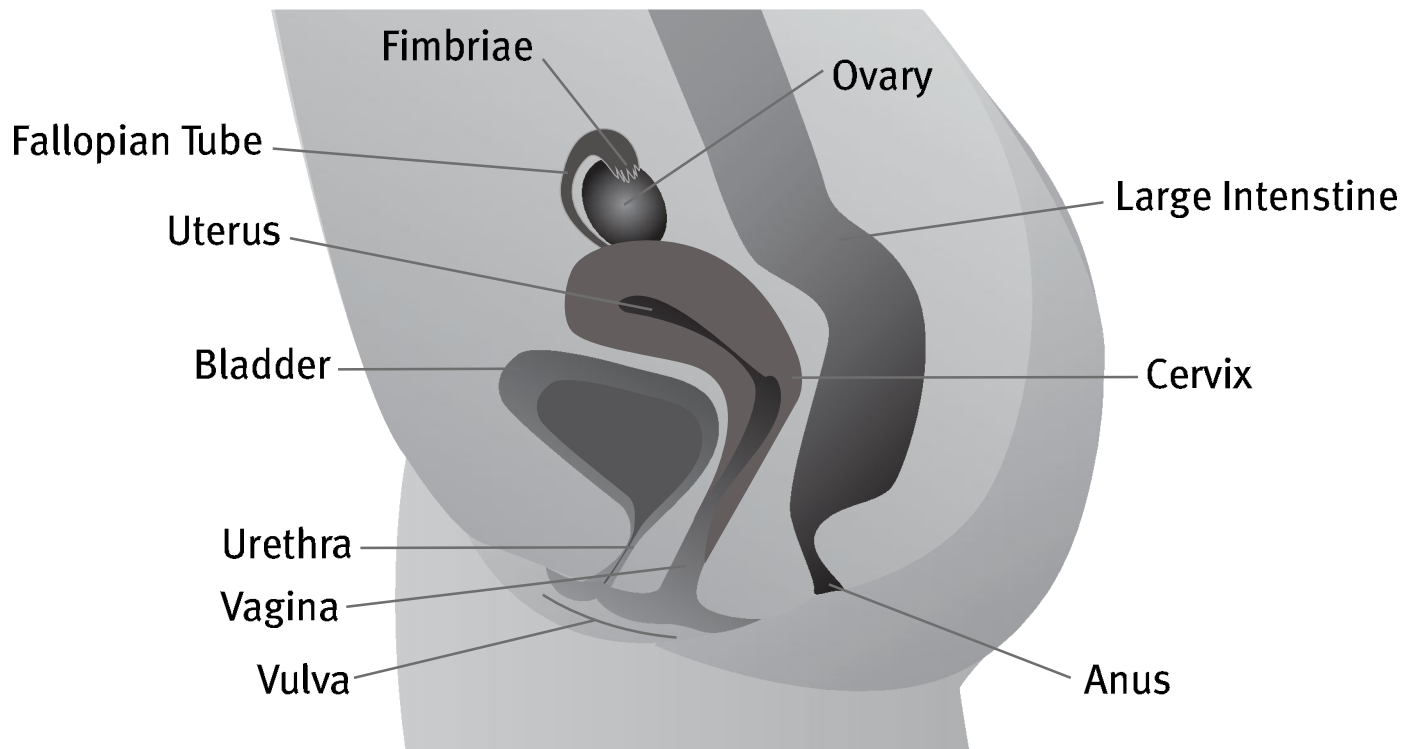


Female Reproductive System



Anus (AAY-nus): An opening from the rectum where feces (poop) comes out of the body. The anus is not part of the reproductive system.

Bladder (BLAD-er): An organ that collects urine (pee) from the kidneys before it leaves the body through the urethra.

Cervix (SUR-viks): The opening of the uterus that connects the vagina to the uterus. Sperm gets into the uterus through the cervix. Menstrual fluid comes out of the uterus through the cervix and into the vagina during periods. The muscles of the cervix are flexible so that it can stretch to let a baby pass through when it is being born.

Fallopian tubes (fuh-loh-pee-uhn toob): Narrow tubes that allow the egg to travel from the ovaries to the uterus. Fertilization of an egg by sperm usually takes place in the fallopian tube. Then the fertilized egg travels into the uterus to implant on the lining of the uterine wall. The fallopian tube is not directly connected to the ovary and ends with the fimbriae.

Fimbriae (FIM-bree-ee): Fringe of tissue that act like fingers, swell with blood and sweep the ovary during ovulation. When the egg is released by the ovary, the fimbriae sweep the egg into the fallopian tube.

Large Intestine (lahrj in-TES-tin): Commonly known as the colon. The colon removes water from indigestible solid waste before it passes out of the body.

Ovary (OH-vuh-ree): Small oval-shaped glands at the end of the fallopian tubes. Ovaries produce eggs and hormones. A woman is born with all of the eggs she'll have in her lifetime. The eggs mature at different rates in the ovaries and each month one egg is released by one ovary.

Urethra (yoo-REE-thruh): The tube that connects the bladder to an opening above the vagina for removal of urine (pee) from the body. Some females ejaculate a clear fluid that is not urine from their urethra during sex and this is normal.

Uterus (YOO-ter-uhs): A pear shaped organ in the pelvis. The uterus is responsible for menstruation, implantation of the fertilized egg, gestation (the time the baby is growing), nourishing the baby, labor and delivery.

Vagina (vuh-JAHY-nuh): A soft and flexible muscle-lined structure that connects the cervix to the outside of a woman's body. It provides lubrication, sensation, a way for menstrual blood to leave the body and serves as the birth canal during child birth. The entrance is formed by the labia (folds of the skin) and vulva.

Vulva (VUHL-vuh): External organs that protect the genitals including the opening to the vagina, opening to the urethra, clitoris (highly sensitive structure that is similar to the penis), labia majora (outer folds of skin that has pubic hair) and labia minora (inner folds of skin).