

Male Reproductive System

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The purpose of the male reproductive system is to produce and transport sperm.

Let's take a few moments to look at the organs of the male reproductive system –

The testis or testicles are the male sex organs. The testes are oval in shape and are enclosed in the scrotum. These organs produce sperm cells known as spermatozoa, as well as the male hormone testosterone.

The epididymis is located on the top of each testicle. These are coiled tubes that carry the mature sperm up to the vas deferens.

The vas deferens then transport the sperm to the urethra. The seminal vesicles are two glands which are located at the base of the bladder. These glands produce a thick fluid, which forms part of the semen.

The prostate gland encircles the upper end of the urethra. This gland also secretes a fluid which aids in the movement of the sperm.

The penis is the male organ for copulation. The glans penis is the enlarged tip on the end of the penis. The prepuce is also known as the foreskin of the penis.

What is semen? Semen is composed of sperm, seminal fluids, and other secretions.

The term genitalia is a general term used for both male and female reproductive organs.

Here are the common combining forms for the male reproductive system:

andr /o	male
balan /o	glans penis
epididym /o	epididymis
orchid/o, orchi/o, orch/o, test/o	testis, testicle
prostat / o	prostate gland
sperm / o, spermat / o	sperm
vas / o	vessel, duct

Prefixes:

dys-	painful, abnormal, difficult, labored
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endo-	within
epi-	on, upon, over
eu-	normal or good
hyper-	above, excessive
hypo-	below, incomplete, deficient
intra-	within
meta-	after, beyond, change
trans	through, across, beyond

Suffixes:

-cele	hernia or protrusion
-centesis	surgical procedure to aspirate fluid
-ectasis	stretching out, dilatation, expansion
-graphy	process of recording, radiographic imaging
-ism	state of
-meter	instrument used to measure
-metry	measurement
-pexy	surgical fixation, suspension
-rrhagia	rapid flow of blood
-scope	instrument used for visual exam
-scopic	pertaining to visual examination
-scopy	visual examination
-spasm	sudden, involuntary muscle contraction
-stenosis	constriction or narrowing
-stomy	creation of an artificial opening

Let's take some time to break down a few terms of the male reproductive system:

anorchism – *ism* is state of, *an/o* is without, and *orchi/o* is testis; so this is the state of absence of testis

epididymitis – *itis* means inflammation, and *epididym/o* means epididymis; so you would have inflammation of the of the epididymis

epididymectomy – *ectomy* means to make an excision, and *epididym/o* means epididymis; so you have any an excision of the epididymis

prostatocystitis – *itis* means inflammation, *prostate/o* means prostate gland, and *cyst/o* means bladder; so you would have inflammation of the prostate gland and the bladder

prostatorrhoea – *rrhea* means flow or discharge, *prostat/o* means from the prostate gland; so you have a discharge from the prostate gland

spermatolysis – *lysis* means dissolution or destruction, *spermat/o* means sperm; so you have dissolution (destruction) of sperm

oligospermia – *olig/o* means scanty, and *sperm/o* means sperm; so this is a condition of scanty sperm (in the semen)

The following are a few diagnostic terms that are specific to the male reproductive system:

transrectal ultrasound – a ultrasound used to diagnosis prostate cancer

prostate-specific antigen (PSA) – is a laboratory test that measures the prostatic-specific antigen in the blood

digital rectal examination (DRE) – a procedure in which the health care provider inserts a finger into the rectum and feels for the size and shape of the prostate gland through the rectal wall

Here are a few medical diseases and terms not built from word parts:

chlamydia – is a sexually transmitted disease, sometimes referred to as a silent STD as many are not aware that they are infected with the disease

circumcision – procedure to remove the prepuce also known as the foreskin

erectile dysfunction (ED) – term that means lack of power to have an erection or to copulate

gonorrhoea – a contagious, inflammatory sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacterial organism that affects the mucous membranes of the genitourinary system

human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) – the type of retrovirus that causes AIDS

human papillomavirus (HPV) – a sexually transmitted disease causing benign or cancerous growths also called venereal warts

hydrocele – scrotal swelling caused by a collection of fluid

priapism – persistent abnormal erection of the penis

varicocele – enlarged veins of the spermatic cord

Abbreviations:

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
BPH	benign prostatic hyperplasia
DRE	digital rectal examination
ED	erectile dysfunction
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HPV	human papilloma virus
PSA	prostate-specific antigen
STD	sexually transmitted disease
TURP	transurethral resection of the prostate