

# Female Reproductive Anatomy



The reproductive system is the part of the body involved in sexual function. In women, this system also has the job of supporting a baby as it develops during pregnancy. The picture below shows the main parts of this system.

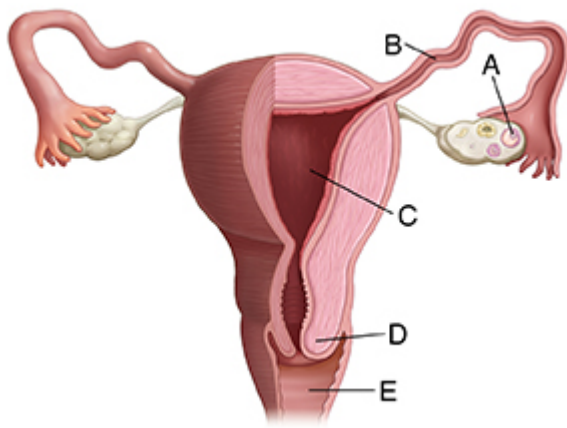
## Who's who

A healthcare provider who specializes in caring for a woman's reproductive system is called a **gynecologist**. An advanced practice nurse who specializes in caring for a woman's reproductive system can be either a **women's health nurse practitioner**, a **certified nurse midwife**, or a **doctor of nursing practice**.

## Front view

This is how the female anatomy normally works:

- A. **Ovaries** store eggs (female reproductive cells). About once a month, a woman's hormones trigger an egg to be released from an ovary. This is called ovulation.
- B. **Fallopian tubes** carry eggs to the uterus. Pregnancy occurs if a man's sperm fertilizes an egg as it moves through the tube.
- C. The **uterus** is a hollow, muscular, pear-shaped organ. If an egg has been fertilized, it becomes an embryo and implants in the lining of the uterus where it grows into a baby.
- D. The **cervix** is the narrow canal where the uterus and vagina meet.
- E. The **vagina** is the pathway that connects the uterus with the outside of the body.



Hormones cause the lining of the uterus to thicken. This helps get the uterus ready to receive a fertilized egg. If pregnancy doesn't occur, the thickened lining is no longer needed. It is then shed through the vagina. This is called having a period (menstrual bleeding).

© 2000-2027 The StayWell Company, LLC. All rights reserved. This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Always follow your healthcare professional's instructions.  
This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Always follow your Healthcare professional's instructions. Copyright Krames LLC.