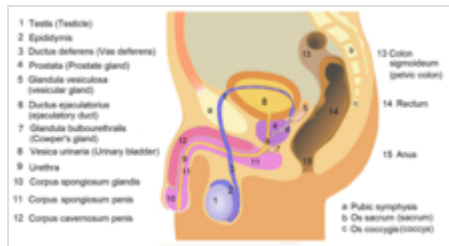




Urinary meatus

The **urinary meatus**^[a] (/ˈmiːˈeɪtəs/, *mee-AY-təs*; pl.: **meatus** or **meatuses**), also known as the **external urethral orifice**, is the opening where urine exits the male and female urethra. It is where semen also exits the male urethra. The meatus has varying degrees of sensitivity to touch.

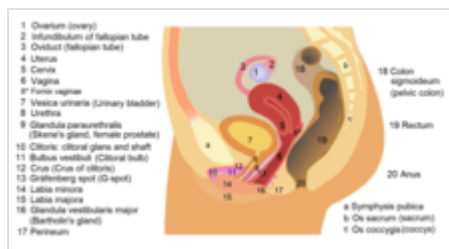
In human males



Drawing of male internal sexual anatomy


The male external urethral orifice is the external opening of the urethra, normally located at the tip of the glans penis,^[1] at its junction with the frenular delta. It presents as a vertical slit, possibly bounded on either side by two small labia-like projections, and continues longitudinally along the front aspect of the glans, which facilitates the flow of urine micturition. In some cases, the opening may be more rounded. This can occur naturally or may also occur as a side effect of excessive skin removal during circumcision. The meatus is a sensitive part of the male reproductive system.

In human females



Lateral anatomical view of the female reproductive system

from penetration alone is observed to be more likely as CUMD decreases.^[2]

Urinary meatus	
	
Human urinary meatus on the male <u>glans penis</u> (left) and in the female <u>vulval vestibule</u> (right)	
Details	
Part of	<u>Penis</u> or <u>vulva</u>
Identifiers	
Latin	<i>ostium urethrae externum</i>
FMA	19650 (https://bioportal.bioontology.org/ontologies/FMA/?p=classes&conceptid=http%3A%2F%2Fpurl.org%2Fsig%2Font%2Ffma%2Ffma19650)
<u>Anatomical terminology</u>	

Evidence also suggests that decreased distance from the vaginal opening to the urethral meatus is associated with recurrent post-coital urinary tract infections. ^[3] Surgical repositioning of the distal urethra to prevent recurrent post-coital urinary tract infections has been employed with some success by Russian physicians.^[4]

In other mammals

Unlike most other mammals (including human), female spotted hyenas have a urinary meatus that is located on the clitoral glans.^{[5][6]}

Clinical significance

Congenital disorders of the meatus, in the male, include epispadias (the misplacement to the upper aspect) and hypospadias (the misplacement to the underside of the penis). A congenital misshaping can result in its narrowing (meatal stenosis), causing a partial or total urinary blockage or the bifurcation of the urinary stream. A urethral blockage can also be caused by foreign material, kidney stones, or bladder stones (lithiasis).

See also

- Urogenital opening

Notes

- Meatus refers to a tubular opening or passage in the body. From Latin **meātus**: *a course, passing*.

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