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Female Infertility

Infertility means not being able to get pregnant after at least one year of trying (or 6 months if the woman is over age 35). If a woman keeps having miscarriages [<https://medlineplus.gov/miscarriage.html>] , it is also called infertility. Female infertility can result from age, physical problems, hormone problems, and lifestyle or environmental factors.

Most cases of infertility in women result from problems with producing eggs. In **primary ovarian insufficiency** [<https://medlineplus.gov/primaryovarianinsufficiency.html>] , the ovaries stop functioning before natural menopause. In **polycystic ovary syndrome** [<https://medlineplus.gov/polycysticovarysyndrome.html>] (PCOS), the ovaries may not release an egg regularly or they may not release a healthy egg.

About a third of the time, infertility is because of a problem with the woman. One third of the time, it is a problem with the **man** [<https://medlineplus.gov/maleinfertility.html>] . Sometimes no cause can be found.




If you think you might be infertile, see your doctor. There are tests that may tell if you have fertility problems. When it is possible to find the cause, treatments may include medicines, surgery, or **assisted reproductive technologies** [<https://medlineplus.gov/assistedreproductivetechnology.html>] . Happily, many couples treated for infertility are able to have babies.









Dept. of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health

Start Here

- **Infertility** [<https://womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/infertility>] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/infertility>]
- **Reproductive Infertility** [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/endocrine-library/infertility>] (Endocrine Society)
- **Trying to Conceive** [<https://womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/you-get-pregnant/trying-to-conceive>]
(Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/you-get-pregnant/trying-to-conceive>]
- **What Are Some Causes of Infertility?** [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/infertility/conditioninfo/causes>]
 (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/infertility/informacion/causas>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- **Anti-Müllerian Hormone Test** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/anti-mullerian-hormone-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-la-hormona-antimulleriana/>]
- **Estrogen Levels Test** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/estrogen-levels-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-estrogeno/>]
- **Follicle-Stimulating Hormone (FSH) Levels Test** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/follicle-stimulating-hormone-fsh-levels-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-niveles-de-la-hormona-foliculoestimulante-fsh/>]

- Hysterosalpingogram (HSG) [<https://www.reproductivefacts.org/news-and-publications/fact-sheets-and-infographics/hysterosalpingogram-hsg/>] (American Society for Reproductive Medicine)
- Hysterosalpingography [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/hysterosalp>]  (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/hysterosalp>]
- Hysteroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/hysteroscopy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/histeroscopia/>]
- Karyotype Genetic Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/karyotype-genetic-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-cariotipo/>]
- Laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/laparoscopy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/laparoscopia/>]
- Luteinizing Hormone (LH) Levels Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/luteinizing-hormone-lh-levels-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-niveles-de-la-hormona-luteinizante-hl/>]
- Pelvic laparoscopy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100131_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100131_1.htm]
- Progesterone Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/progesterone-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-progesterona/>]
- Prolactin Levels [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/prolactin-levels/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/niveles-de-prolactina/>]
- Sonohysterography [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/hysterosono>]  (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/hysterosono>]



Treatments and Therapies

- Assisted Reproductive Technology: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/assistedreproductivetechnology.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/assistedreproductivetechnology.html>]
- Fertility Treatments for Females [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/infertility/conditioninfo/treatments/treatments-women>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/infertility/informacion/tratamientos-mujeres>]
- Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/intrauterine-insemination/about/pac-20384722?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/intrauterine-insemination/about/pac-20384722?p=1>]
- Medications for Inducing Ovulation [<https://www.reproductivefacts.org/news-and-publications/patient-fact-sheets-and-booklets/documents/fact-sheets-and-info-booklets/medications-for-inducing-ovulation-booklet/>]
(American Society for Reproductive Medicine)
- Ovarian Drilling for Infertility [<https://www.reproductivefacts.org/news-and-publications/fact-sheets-and-infographics/ovarian-drilling-for-infertility/>] (American Society for Reproductive Medicine) - **PDF**
- Treatments for Diseases that Cause Infertility [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/infertility/conditioninfo/treatments/diseases>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/infertility/informacion/tratamientos-enfermedades>]
- Treatments for Infertility Resulting from Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pcos/conditioninfo/treatments/infertility>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/PCOS/informacion/infertilidad>]

Living With

- **Weight and Fertility** [<https://www.reproductivefacts.org/news-and-publications/fact-sheets-and-infographics/weight-and-fertility/>] (American Society for Reproductive Medicine)

Related Issues

- **Diethylstilbestrol (DES) Exposure and Cancer** [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/hormones/des-fact-sheet>]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/cancer/causas-prevencion/riesgo/hormonas/hoja-informativa-des>]
- **Fertility Issues in Girls and Women with Cancer** [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/side-effects/fertility-women>]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/cancer/tratamiento/efectos-secundarios/fecundidad-mujeres>]
- **Side Effects of Injectable Fertility Drugs (Gonadotropins)** [<https://www.reproductivefacts.org/news-and-publications/patient-fact-sheets-and-booklets/documents/fact-sheets-and-info-booklets/side-effects-of-injectable-fertility-drugs-gonadotropins/>] (American Society for Reproductive Medicine)



Specifics

- **Endometriosis and Infertility: Can Surgery Help?** [https://www.reproductivefacts.org/globalassets/_rf/news-and-publications/bookletsfact-sheets/english-pdf/endometriosis_and_infertility_can_surgery_help-factsheet.pdf] (American Society for Reproductive Medicine) - **PDF**
- **Fallopian Tubes: Is Pregnancy Possible with Only One?** [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/female-infertility/expert-answers/pregnancy/FAQ-20058418?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/female-infertility/expert-answers/pregnancy/faq-20058418?p=1>]
- **What Age-Related Factors May Be Involved with Infertility in Females and Males?** [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/infertility/conditioninfo/causes/age>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/infertility/informacion/edad>]


Genetics

- **Recurrent hydatidiform mole: MedlinePlus Genetics** [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/recurrent-hydatidiform-mole>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Videos and Tutorials

- **Intracytoplasmic sperm injection** [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000074.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000074.htm>]
- **Ovulation** [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000094.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000094.htm>]

Clinical Trials

- **ClinicalTrials.gov: Infertility, Female** [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Infertility,+Female%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles



References and abstracts from **MEDLINE/PubMed** (National Library of Medicine)

- **Article: Letrozole ovulation regimen for frozen-thawed embryo transfer in women with polycystic...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40676584>]
- **Article: Impact of a health coaching intervention on anthropometric indicators, physical activity,...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40624554>]


Article: Ligilactobacillus salivarius CECT5713 Increases Term Pregnancies in Women with Infertility of...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40507130>]

- Female Infertility -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Infertility%2C+Female%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk

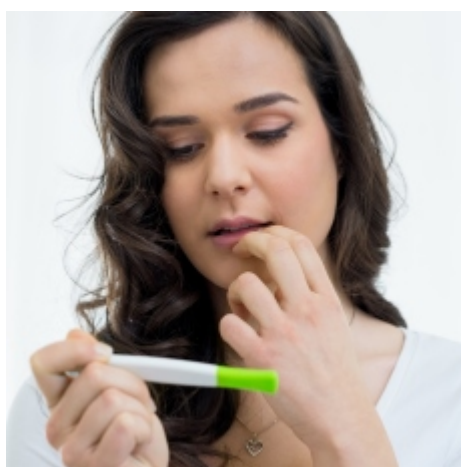
- Female Reproductive System [<https://training.seer.cancer.gov/anatomy/reproductive/female/>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Reproductive System: Female Anatomy [<https://visualsonline.cancer.gov/details.cfm?imageid=8262>]  (National Cancer Institute)

Find an Expert

- Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health [<https://womenshealth.gov/>]
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.womenshealth.gov/>]
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/>]
- How to Find an Ob-Gyn [<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/find-an-ob-gyn>]
(American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)

Patient Handouts

- Estradiol blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003711.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003711.htm>]
- Luteinizing hormone (LH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003708.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003708.htm>]
- Prolactin blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003718.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003718.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- D and C [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002914.htm>]
- D and C - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100013_1.htm]
- Estradiol blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003711.htm>]
- Hysterosalpingography [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003404.htm>]
- Hysteroscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007571.htm>]
- Intracytoplasmic sperm injection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000074.htm>]

Luteinizing hormone (LH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003708.htm>]

Ovulation [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000094.htm>]

Ovulation home test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007062.htm>]

Pelvic laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002916.htm>]

Pelvic laparoscopy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100131_1.htm]

Prolactin blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003718.htm>]

Serum progesterone [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003714.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Assisted Reproductive Technology [<https://medlineplus.gov/assistedreproductivetechnology.html>]

Infertility [<https://medlineplus.gov/infertility.html>]

Male Infertility [<https://medlineplus.gov/maleinfertility.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Female Infertility* is the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/Pages/index.aspx>]

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