

holds the developing fetus; and the ovaries , which produce the female's ova. The breasts are involved during the parenting stage of reproduction, but in most classifications they are not considered to be part of the female reproductive system.

The vagina meets the outside at the vulva , which also includes the labia, clitoris and urethra; during intercourse this area is lubricated by mucus secreted by the Bartholin's glands. The vagina is attached to the uterus through the cervix , while the uterus is attached to the ovaries via the fallopian tubes . Each ovary contains hundreds of egg cells or ova (singular ovum ) .

Approximately every 28 days, the pituitary gland releases a hormone that stimulates some of the ova to develop and grow. One ovum is released and it passes through the fallopian tube into the uterus.

Hormones produced by the ovaries prepare the uterus to receive the ovum. The lining of the uterus, called the endometrium , and unfertilized ova are shed each cycle through the process of menstruation . If the ovum is fertilized by sperm, it attaches to the endometrium and the fetus develops.

Male

Main article: Human male reproductive system

The male reproductive system is a series of organs located outside of the body and around the pelvis region of a male that contribute towards the reproduction process. The primary direct function of the male reproductive system is to provide the male sperm for fertilization of the ovum.

The major reproductive organs of the male can be grouped into three categories. The first category is sperm production and storage. Production takes place in the testes which are housed in the temperature regulating scrotum, immature sperm then travel to the epididymis for development and storage. The second category are the ejaculatory fluid producing glands which include the seminal vesicles , prostate, and the vas deferens. The final category are those used for copulation, and

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