

Female Infertility

Female:

Includes (not an exclusive list):

Blocking of fallopian tubes (oviducts)

Uterine abnormalities

Endometriosis,

Polycystic ovary syndrome,

Ovulation failure (absent or infrequent menstrual cycles), Ectopic pregnancy

Unexplained infertility

Infertility

◆ Inability to conceive

10-15% of couples fail to conceive within 1 to 2 years of trying

◆ About 1 in 6 couples in US

50 % due to problems in woman

30 % due to problems in male

20 % due to fertility problems in both partners

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Blocking of Fallopian Tubes



◆ Present in ~35% of infertility cases

◆ May lead to fluid build up- hydrosalpinx (Fig. B)

◆ Blocks transport of oocyte or sperm

◆ Increased risk of ectopic pregnancy

Diagnosis:

◆ Laparoscopy

◆ Methylene blue infused into uterus

◆ Radio-opaque dye: Hysterosalpingography (HSG)

Variocoeles, Obstructions and Undescended Testes

Varicocele

- Enlarged veins around testes
- Do not cause discomfort or impact on man's health in any way but they may increase temperature of testes
- Damages sperm production

Obstructions

- Can prevent sperm from being ejaculated
- Scarring from infection, injury or surgery

Undescended testes

- One or both testes remain in abdomen
- Surgery
- If not corrected or surgery is overly delayed fertility may be affected

Semen Analysis: WHO criteria for 'NORMAL' and 'SUBFERTILE'

CRITERION	NORMAL	SUBFERTILE
Ejaculate volume/cm ³	2-5	
Sperm concentration/mL	20-50 MILLION	< 20 MILLION
Total sperm number	100-700 MILLION	<50 MILLION
Sperm swimming forward vigorously	> 60%	< 40%
Abnormal sperm/%	< 30%	> 60%
Viscosity after liquefaction	LOW	HIGH
Cellular debris	LOW BUT VARIABLE	HIGH