

Fertilization

Nucleus Medical Media

During sexual intercourse, around 300 million sperm enter the vagina. However, many of them will either flow out of the vagina or die due to the acidic environment. But, some of them survive because of the protective elements present in the fluid surrounding them.

Next, the sperm must pass through the cervix, which is the opening into the uterus. The egg releases chemicals that push other sperm away from it, creating an impenetrable fertilization membrane. As the reaction spreads outward, the zona pellucida (outer layer of the egg) hardens, which traps any sperm that are unfortunate enough to be caught inside.

Meanwhile, inside the egg, the tightly packed male genetic material spreads out, and inside the genetic material, it reforms into 23 chromosomes. On the other hand, the female genetic material finishes dividing, resulting in the female pronucleus.