

Kabir A. Ahmed.

Infertility

Bio 206. Anatomy and physiology 2.

May 2009

Sex could be a means of satisfying bodily and psychological desire. However the primary important of sex is to reproduce. If sex is engaged in perpetually without contraception, condom and pill, and many others, for a whole year, and mature female did not get pregnant, there is a problem somewhere! The blame is often put in the head of the female, but in reality the cause could either be from male or female. The inability of female to get pregnant after prolong time of coitus, sexual intercourse, between couple or man and woman usually within a year is refer to as infertility.



Couples that are depressed from incessant coitus without result.

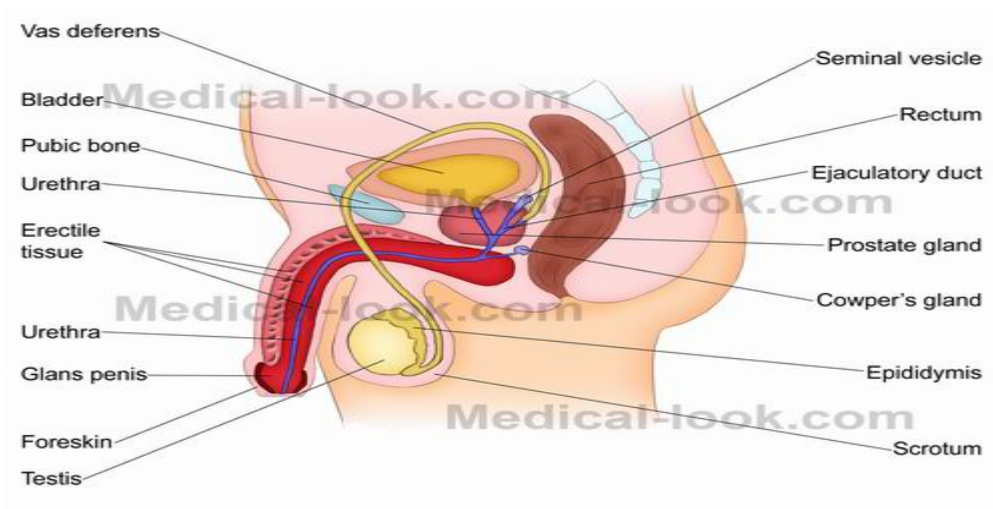
Infertility is usually of no significant in a situation where both partner that are engaging in sexual intercourse are not aiming to reproduce. If they are just mating to satisfy there hunger for sex, infertility might not be notice for a long period of time and could in such situation be a blessing. But in couples married or not married aspiring to have child(ren), it could be an emotional and physical pain. So big that it could even result into dissolution of marriage , or seperation.

According to a survey, most female get pregnant around the first six cycles of intercourse in the fertile phase, moving forward to twelve month of unprotected intercourse, 85 percent would be pregnant, and in the next 3 year the 15 percent remaining would conceive naturally. This is the normality for people that are not affected by infertility. Infertile couple will not conceive until something is done to improve their condition. In other to understand the cause of infertility, one need to have a sound understanding of the reproductive system in male and female. Any abnormality in the processes involve in reproductive systems, or organs of reproduction would likely results into infertility. Infertility is an experience that is not peculiar to race, it inflict all race alike, but the ripple or statistic varies from society to society, and causes vary from male to female since the anatomy of matured male and female reproductive system is no similar.

Reproduction could only be possible if male is able to produce healthy sperm and female is able to receive it, fertilize it, provide ideal environment for it growth, and nourishes it throughout the gestation period until it is ready for delivery. This is a simplicity of varying complexes processes that has to be satisfy before reproduction could take place. Any distortion in these processes would result into infertility. Infertility in male and female would depend on several factors. In male this include: impaired production or function of sperm- deform shape and movement, low sperm count, varicose, undescended testicle, testosterone deficiency, genetic defect, and infection; impaired delivery of sperm- premature ejaculation, erectile dysfunction, psychological problems, use of lubricant that kills sperm, retrograde ejaculation, blockage of ejaculatory ducts, absence of semen, misplaced external urethra orifice, presence of antibodies that kill sperm; general lifestyle- emotional stress, malnutrition, obesity, cancer, drugs that reduce fertility, injury or surgery that severe part of male reproductive system; exposure to harmful substances like pesticides, and overheating of the testicle. In female cause of infertility includes: damage to the fallopian tube, endometriosis, disruption in the path of the brain that regulate ovulation leading to ovulation disorder, high level of prolactin, production of too much androgen by the body leading to ovulation disorder, benign fallopian tube fibroid, band of scar tissue that bind reproductive organs after infection or abdominal surgery, medication, too much or too little thyroid hormones production that impaired menstrual cycle, cancer, and treatment of cancer.

There are other factors that is not peculiar to male or female alone that could result into infertility. Some of them includes age - as both sex age their fertility strength often times decrease, tobacco smoking, alcohol consumption, being overweight, being underweight leading to lack of essential nutrients, long and strenuous exercise, and caffeine intake.

Woman dissatisfied with her husband's infertility.



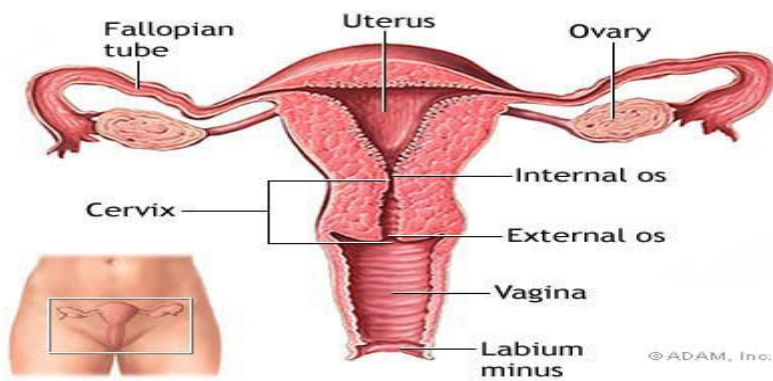
Male reproductive system

The normal scenario in male that is sexually stimulated is erection, peak and ejaculation. Good erection is necessary for a male to be able to launch sperm into female uterus, if the sperm count is below 20 million per every milliliter, the sperm is not healthy enough for fetus formation. If the sperm is formed and fail to reach the seminal vesicle or Cowper's gland to gather other fluid that is needed for it journey, their cannot be reproduction, also if the sperm is inhibited in its passage from

epididymus duct to vas deferens to urethra there cannot be reproduction and the male would remain infertile until the problem is corrected.



A female with infertility.



Female reproductive system.



Sperm journey to the fallopian tube

After ejaculation into the vagina healthy sperm would continue rigorous race from the external os to internal os then to fallopian tube then to egg where it would penetrate egg through the process of fertilization then, the egg travels back to the uterus where it would be embedded into the uterus lining, endometrium. Most infertility from female is as a result of distortion in the journey of the sperm to the fallopian tube, or fertilize egg back to the right position for development. And the cause of this is dependent on several factor that is mentioned earlier.

Symptoms of infertility in female ranges from no symptoms at all to abnormal menstrual periods, changes in sexual function or irregular hair growth due to hormonal changes. In male there is usually no symptoms unless he has a prostate problem.

Before doctor could diagnose which one of the couples has the infertility problem series of test has to be done, these tests are very comprehensive and it takes months. During this time male semen would be collected and tested for its structure and motility, female would be examined to ensure that she ovulates on a monthly basis, texture of her cervical mucus would be recorded for several months, ultra sound of the ovary to see its performance, hysterosalpingograph would be performed where doctor would use x ray to check for physical problems of the uterus and fallopian tube to see how well sperm would move through.

Once the cause is determined, it can then be treated. Infertility is treated in various forms or sometimes it might be needed to combine many procedures to help couples reproduce. In men, infertility could be treated through behavior therapy and medicine; this is usually peculiar to those with premature ejaculation, if infertility is as a result of low sperm count from infection, it could be corrected by using anti-biotics. In women with ovulation problems, medicine like bromocriptine (Parlodel), clomiphene (Clomid), Pergonal, and Follistim is used to treat infertility. The type of drug prescribed will depend on the woman and the cause of her ovulation disorder—usually hormonal problems. Another treatment is intrauterine insemination where the woman is treated with medicine that stimulates ovulation to prepare her body, after which collected sperm would be injected through her uterus in such a way that it would make it to the fallopian tube.



Intrauterine insemination.

The treatment that a doctor would recommend would be based on the infertility test results, age of the couple, how healthy the partners are, and the choice of the partners.

Infertility is a big issue in today's marital and couples' lives that cause physical and emotional pains. It is the inability of the female to get pregnant after several attempts to get pregnant. The inability to produce a pregnancy could be from male inability to provide a healthy sperm or / and female inability to provide a viable

environment for sperm to get fertilized, and for fertilized egg to develop. There are various treatment for infertility and they all depend on individual choice and needs.

REFERENCES?