

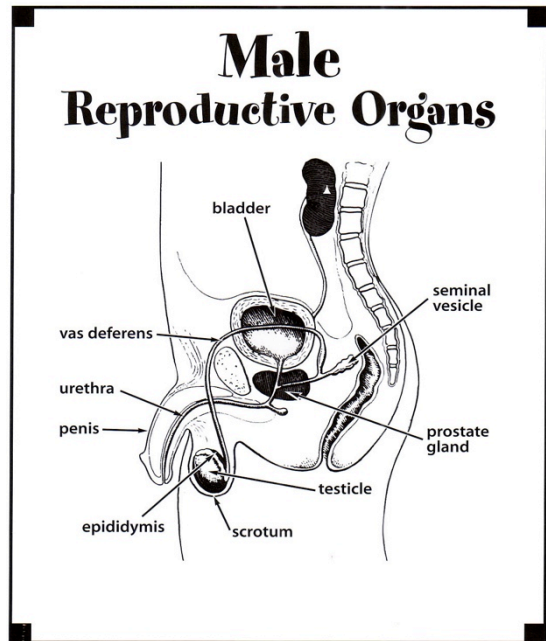
# THE MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

## Male Reproductive Organs

The **male reproductive system** includes the penis, urethra, scrotum, seminal vesicles, and prostate gland.

The **penis** is made up of spongy tissue. Most of the time it is soft and limp. But when a man becomes sexually excited, the tissue of the penis fills with blood and it becomes firm and erect. This happens during sexual intercourse, but can also happen naturally during sleep.

The **testicles** are located inside the **scrotum**, which hangs below the penis. Men have 2 testicles, which are about the same size and shape as small plums. The testicles make the male hormone testosterone and produce sperm, the microscopic male reproductive cells. Every day, a healthy male produces several hundred million sperm. They are stored in the **epididymis**. Sperm that aren't ejaculated get broken down by the body and reabsorbed.



The testicles make sperm best at a few degrees cooler than normal body temperature. The testicles hang outside the body in the scrotum to keep the sperm cool. If the testicles get cold, the scrotum is pulled towards the body to warm them up to the best temperature for making sperm. If the testicles get too warm, the scrotum hangs lower from the body to cool them down.

The **urethra** is the tube that carries sperm outside the body through the penis. It is also the tube through which urine leaves the body. Urine and semen never travel through the urethra at the same time.

As the new sperm are produced in the testicles, they pass through a tube called the **sperm duct** (also called the vas deferens). The **seminal vesicles** are glands that produce a fluid that gives sperm energy and helps them move. The sperm continue to move through the sperm duct to the **prostate gland**. The prostate gland makes fluid that mixes with the sperm to form a substance called **semen**. Semen contains millions of sperm. It is released (ejaculated) from the penis during sexual intercourse.

## Circumcision

In newborn boys, a flap of skin called the foreskin covers the tip of the penis. Sometimes the foreskin is removed in an operation called **circumcision**. Circumcision is performed for religious and cultural reasons. It has no effect on penis size, how the penis works, and hygiene.

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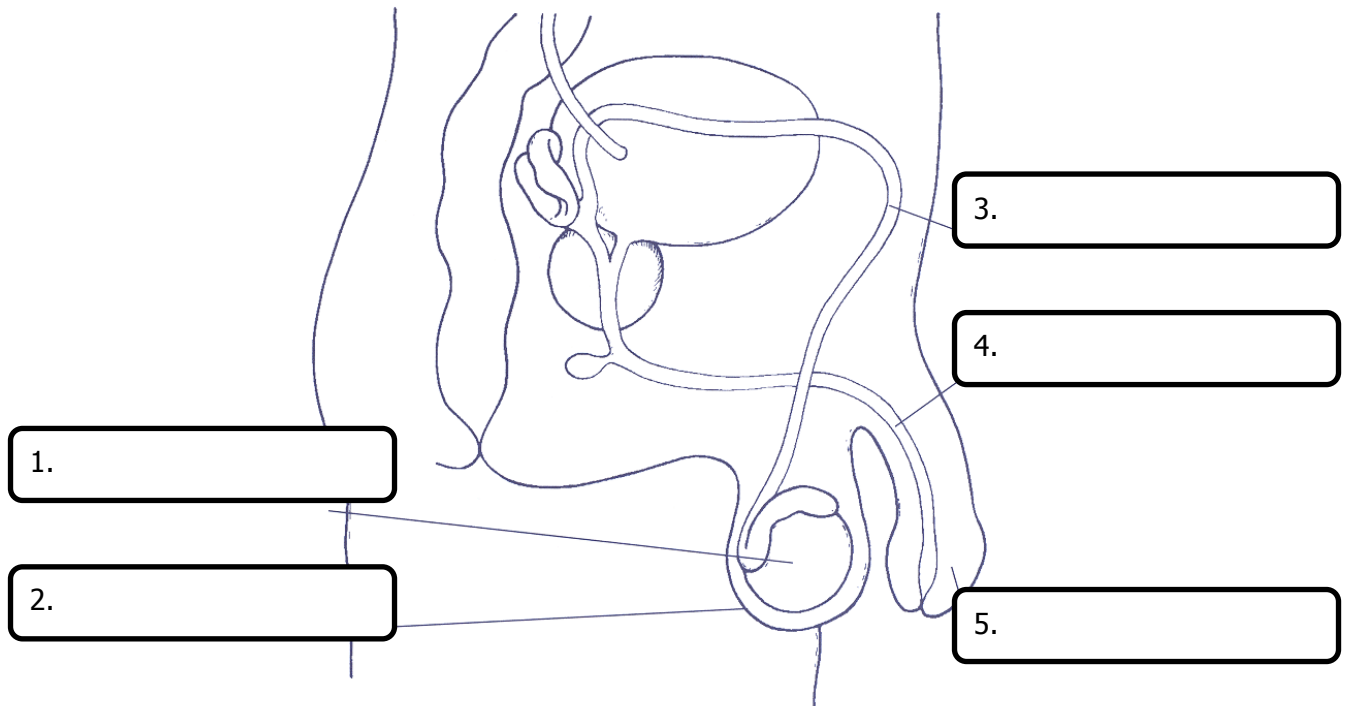
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## **REVIEW - THE MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM**

**Part 1:** Look at the diagram below and label the body parts by writing the correct term from the word bank in the blank space.

| <b>Word Bank</b> |         |         |          |            |
|------------------|---------|---------|----------|------------|
| Penis            | Urethra | Scrotum | Testicle | Sperm duct |



**Part 2:** Match the definition from Column 2 with the organ it describes in Column 1.

### **Reproductive Organs**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Penis
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Urethra
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Scrotum
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Testicle
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sperm duct

### **Definitions**

- A. The primary male sex organ where sperm and sex hormones are produced.
- B. The duct (tube) which urine and semen are let out of the body, though not at the same time.
- C. The tube that carries sperm cells from the testicles.
- D. Male organ that allows a male to pass urine and semen from his body.
- E. The pouch of skin that contains the testicles and holds them outside of the body.