Male Reproductive System

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The purpose of the male reproductive system is to produce and transport sperm.

Let’s take a few moments to look at the organs of the male reproductive system –

The testis or testicles are the male sex organs. The testes are oval in shape and are enclosed in the scrotum. These organs produces sperm cells known as spermatozoa, as well as the male hormone testosterone.

The epididymis is located on the top of each testicle. These are coiled tubes that carry the mature sperm up to the vas deferens.

The vas deferens then transport the sperm to the urethra. The seminal vesicles are two glands which are located at the base of the bladder. These glands produce a thick fluid, which forms part of the semen.

The prostate gland encircles the upper end of the urethra. This gland also secretes a fluid which aids in the movement of the sperm.

The penis is the male organ for copulation. The glans penis is the enlarged tip on the end of the penis. The prepuce is also known as the foreskin of the penis.

What is semen? Semen is composed of sperm, seminal fluids, and other secretions.

The term genitalia is a general term used for both male and female reproductive organs.

Here are the common combing forms for the male reproductive system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>andr /o</td>
<td>male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balan /o</td>
<td>glans penis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>epididym /o</td>
<td>epididymis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orchid/o, orchi/o,</td>
<td>testis, testicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orch/o, test/o</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prostat /o</td>
<td>prostate gland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sperm /o, spermat /o</td>
<td>sperm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vas /o</td>
<td>vessel, duct</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Prefixes:

dys-                  painful, abnormal, difficult, labored
endo- within
epi- on, upon, over
eu- normal or good
hyper- above, excessive
hypo- below, incomplete, deficient
intra- within
meta- after, beyond, change
trans through, across, beyond

Suffixes:
-cele hernia or protrusion
-centesis surgical procedure to aspirate fluid
-ectasis stretching out, dilatation, expansion
-graphy process of recording, radiographic imaging
-ism state of
-meter instrument used to measure
-metry measurement
-pexy surgical fixation, suspension
-rrhagia rapid flow of blood
-scope instrument used for visual exam
-scopic pertaining to visual examination
-scopy visual examination
-spasm sudden, involuntary muscle contraction
-stenosis constriction or narrowing
-stomy creation of an artificial opening
Let’s take some time to break down a few terms of the male reproductive system:

**anorchism** – ism is state of, an/o is without, and orchi/o is testis; so this is the state of absence of testis

**epididymitis** – itis means inflammation, and epididym/o means epididymis; so you would have inflammation of the of the epididymis

**epididymectomy** – ectomy means to make an excision, and epididym/o means epididymis; so you have any an excision of the epididymis

**prostatocystitis** – itis means inflammation, prostate/o means prostate gland, and cyst/o means bladder; so you would have inflammation of the prostate gland and the bladder

**prostatorrhea** – rrhea means flow or discharge, prostat/o means from the prostate gland; so you have a discharge from the prostate gland

**spermatolysis** – lysis means dissolution or destruction, spermat/o means sperm; so you have dissolution (destruction) of sperm

**oligospermia** – olig/o means scanty, and sperm/o means sperm; so this is a condition of scanty sperm (in the semen)

The following are a few diagnostic terms that are specific to the male reproductive system:

**transrectal ultrasound** – a ultrasound used to diagnosis prostate cancer

**prostate-specific antigen (PSA)** – is a laboratory test that measures the prostatic-specific antigen in the blood

**digital rectal examination (DRE)** – a procedure in which the health care provider inserts a finger into the rectum and feels for the size and shape of the prostate gland through the rectal wall

Here are a few medical diseases and terms not built from word parts:

**chlamydia** – is a sexually transmitted disease, sometimes referred to as a silent STD as many are not aware that they are infected with the disease

**circumcision** – procedure to remove the prepuce also known as the foreskin

**erectile dysfunction (ED)** – term that means lack of power to have an erection or to copulate

**gonorrhea** – a contagious, inflammatory sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacterial organism that affects the mucous membranes of the genitourinary system

**human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** – the type of retrovirus that causes AIDS
human papillomavirus (HPV) – a sexually transmitted disease causing benign or cancerous growths also called venereal warts

hydrocele – scrotal swelling caused by a collection of fluid

priapism – persistent abnormal erection of the penis

vagiocele – enlarged veins of the spermatic cord

Abbreviations:

AIDS acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
BPH benign prostatic hyperplasia
DRE digital rectal examination
ED erectile dysfunction
HIV human immunodeficiency virus
HPV human papilloma virus
PSA prostate-specific antigen
STD sexually transmitted disease
TURP transurethral resection of the prostate