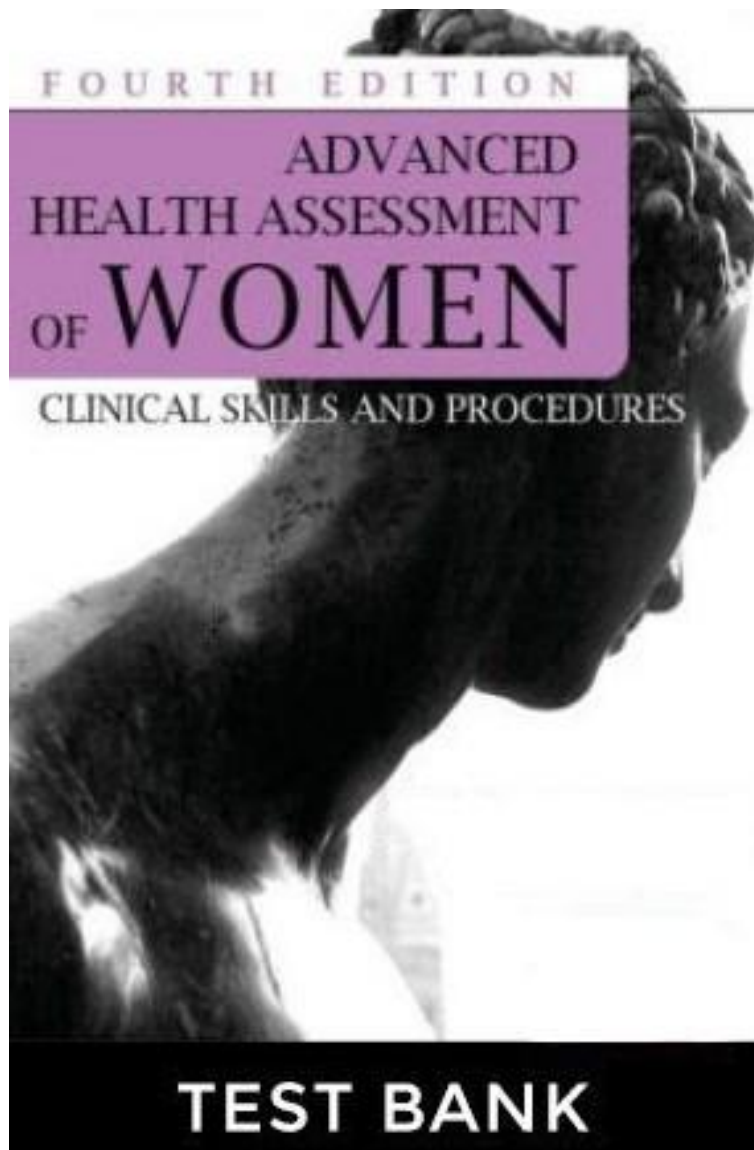


Test Questions and Textbook



**Advanced Health Assessment of
Women Clinical Skills and Procedures
4th Edition Carcio and Secor Test
Questions and Textbook**

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Anatomy and Physiology of the Urinary and Reproductive Systems



Helen A. Carcio

I. General Overview

- A.** In females, the urinary and reproductive systems are completely separate, unlike in males.
- B.** The internal female reproductive organs are located in the lower pelvis and are safely tucked inside the bony pelvis, behind the pubic bone.
- C.** External genitalia collectively include the mons pubis, the labia majora, the labia minora, the vestibule, the clitoris, and the vaginal orifice (Figure 1.1).
- D.** The structures of the peritoneum are listed and compared in Table 1.1.

II. Ovaries

- A.** Description
 - 1.** Each ovary lies in a depression in the lateral pelvic wall, on either side of the uterus.
 - 2.** Ovaries are small and almond shaped.
 - 3.** They vary considerably in size among women, but usually measure between 3 and 5 cm long, 1.5 and 3 cm wide, and 1 and 1.5 cm thick—about the size of a thumbnail.
 - 4.** They are pinkish white to gray.

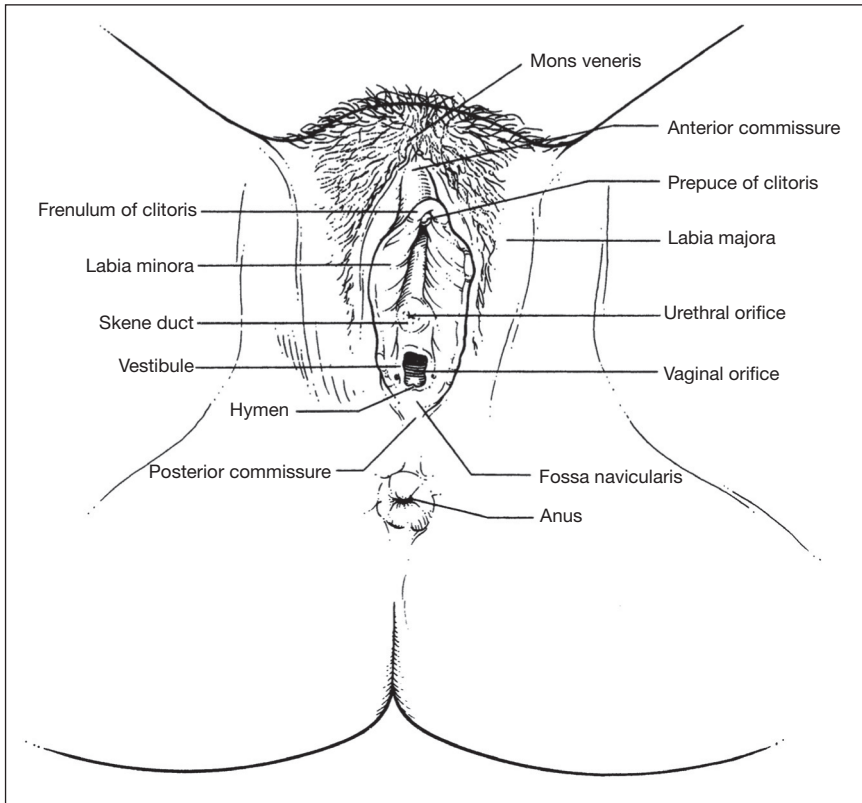


FIGURE 1.1 External female genitalia.

5. They are not directly attached to the uterus and fallopian tubes. The ovaries lie suspended in a strong, flexible structure called the *round ligament*, which anchors them to the uterus.

6. The uterine tubes, which consist of the oviducts and the fallopian tubes, are not directly connected to the ovaries. They open into the peritoneal cavity, which is near the ovaries

B. Function

1. The ovaries house the female sex gametes.

2. The ovaries are counterparts to the testes in the male, in that they secrete sex hormones: estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone.

3. The ovaries produce an ovum (egg) during ovulation in response to hormonal stimulation.

III. Fallopian tubes

A. Description

1. The fallopian tubes extend outward from both sides of the uterus and act as a connecting tunnel between the ovary and the uterus.

TABLE 1.1 Structure, Functions, and Purposes of the Organs of Female Reproduction

STRUCTURE	FUNCTION	PURPOSE
External genitalia	Sensitive to touch and external stimulation	Sexual arousal and sensation of orgasm
Vagina	Passage for intercourse Provides space for containment of sperm Excretory outlet for the uterus Becomes birth canal during the birthing process	Organ of copulation
Cervix	Fibrous, muscular band that holds the bottom of uterus closed and keeps fetus inside during pregnancy	Major source of mucus production during the menstrual cycle
Uterus	Organ of menstruation	Fertilized egg implants here Maintains and protects developing fetus until birth Contracts during labor to birth the neonate
Fallopian tubes	Transport of sperm upward Transport of the egg downward	Location of fertilization of the egg Carries the egg to the uterus
Ovaries	Maturation and development of eggs Ejection of eggs Secrete hormones, including estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone	Produce eggs during ovulation

2. They are approximately 13 cm (5 in.), rubbery, and less than half the diameter of a pencil (0.05–1.0 cm).
3. They have two layers—inner and outer serous layers—that surround the layers of involuntary muscle.
4. The fallopian tubes are narrow and muscular (acting as oviducts) and lined with cilia.
5. They consist of four sections:
 - a. Interstitial section, which lies within the uterine wall
 - b. Isthmus
 - (1) The isthmus is the narrowest section closest to the uterus.
 - (2) It opens into the cavity of the uterus.
 - (3) It has a thick muscular wall.
 - c. Ampulla
 - (1) The ampulla is the longest section, about two thirds of the tube's total length.
 - (2) It widens progressively to the wide distal opening in the infundibulum.
 - (3) It is thin walled.
 - (4) It is the site of fertilization.

d. Infundibulum

(1) The infundibulum is the fimbriated end that lies in close proximity to the ovary.

(2) Finger-like projections at the ends of the tubes are the *fimbriae*, which sweep over the ovary, scoop up the egg, and propel it toward the inner ampullae.

B. Function

1. Transports the sperm and the egg (Box 1.1).

a. The inner wall of the fallopian tubes is lined with cilia, which are hair-like projections.

b. It is believed that the beating motion of these cilia transports the fertilized egg along the tube to the uterus, where the egg is implanted.

c. Muscle contractions in the fallopian tube assist in moving the egg along its journey, much as in intestinal peristalsis.

d. Fallopian tubes have the unique ability to transport the egg in one direction and the sperm in the opposite direction.

2. Collects the egg.

a. The cilia on the fimbriae have adhesive sites that help navigate the egg into the fallopian tube.

b. Near the time of ovulation, the fimbriae bend down in proximity to the ovaries.

c. The swooping motion of the petals sweeps up the egg.

BOX 1.1 Transport of the Egg by the Fallopian Tubes

