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Study of the Reproductive System

Experiment 4 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To identify the major structures on an approved anatomical model and relate each structure to its physiological function.

Principle

Reproductive structures support gamete production, hormone secretion, transport and, in the uterine system, implantation and pregnancy. Structure and function must be discussed respectfully using anatomical terminology.

Requirements

- Labelled and unlabelled teaching models or preserved institutional specimens; atlas supplied by the instructor.
- Pointer, notebook and a blank labelled-sketch sheet.

Procedure

1. Orient the model

Identify anterior/posterior and right/left using anatomical orientation. Record the organ system and the plane of the model.

2. Identify structures

Locate the structures in the table without reading the label first; then check your identification with the instructor.

3. Trace the pathway

Trace sperm from seminiferous tubules through epididymis and ductus deferens towards the urethra. On the second model trace an oocyte from ovary through uterine tube towards uterus; distinguish fertilisation from implantation.

4. Relate structure and function

Explain the function of each identified part and one consequence of disturbed function. Separate an observed structural feature from an inferred physiological effect.

5. Draw and label

Prepare a simple labelled sketch showing the pathway or relationships. Label arrows consistently and record one structure you initially confused.

Observations and Record

Structure	Identification cue	Function
Testis / epididymis	Gonad and associated coiled duct	Sperm production / maturation and storage
Ductus deferens / accessory glands	Transport duct and glands	Transport and seminal-fluid contribution
Ovary	Gonad near uterine tube	Oocyte development and hormone secretion
Uterine tube	Tube between ovarian region and uterus	Transport; common site of fertilisation
Uterus / endometrium	Muscular organ and inner lining	Implantation and pregnancy support
Cervix / vagina	Lower uterine opening and canal	Communication and reproductive functions

Worked Example

The numbers below are illustrative; enter your own observations in the record.

- Complete a recall check: cover the model labels and identify five structures. Record the number correctly located and explain the correction for any error; this is a classroom learning record.

Result

Record the identified structures, the traced pathway and the completed labelled sketch.

Precautions

- Use models and institution-approved teaching specimens; do not undertake dissection independently.
- Handle specimens as directed by the laboratory and avoid confusing the viewer's right with anatomical right.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Is fertilisation the same as implantation?

No. Fertilisation combines gametes; implantation is attachment in the endometrium.

2. Where do sperm mature?

Primarily in the epididymis.

3. Does ovulation guarantee pregnancy?

No. Fertilisation, transport and implantation must also occur.

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