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FEMALE GENITAL ANATOMY

YWCA – Oklahoma City

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Anatomy to Know

Vulva
Vagina
Cervix
Anus

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Female Genital Anatomy

CLITORAL HOOD
LABIA MAJORA
LABIA MINORA
CLITORIS
FOURCHETTE
URETHRA
HYMEN (INTACT)
VAGINAL OPENING
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**Mons Pubis**

Fatty tissue above the pubic symphysis at the anterior commissure of the labia majora.

Mons Pubis is circled at top of photo.

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**Labia Majora**

Longitudinal folds of fatty and connective tissue analogous to the male scrotum protects the external genitalia in adults.

Size is estrogen dependent.

Pubic hair present.

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**Labia Majora**

Note differences in size and contour of labia majora.
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**Labia Minora**

- Thin folds of tissue
- Folded inside labia majora or medial to majora
- Wide variance in appearance
- No hair is present
- Lateral anterior labia form the prepuce of the clitoris
- Medial anterior labia form the clitoral frenulum
- Posterior labia form the posterior fourchette

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**Labia Minora**

Note variance in appearance

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**Clitoris**

- Cylindrical erectile structure that consists of a glans, prepuce, frenulum, and body
- Analogous to the penis
- Glans is visible
- Body extends toward pubis but covered by skin
- Approximately 8,000 nerves making it more sensitive than the penis
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Clitoris

Note differences

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Clitoris

Atypical findings

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Urethral meatus

Outlet of the urinary system
surrounded by mucoid secreting glands / ducts
not typically visible unless prolapsed
Skene’s ducts on either side of urethral floor
do not operate fully until menarche
produce mucoid secretion to protect meatus during coitus
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Urinary Meatus

Periurethral brands may be present.

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Vaginal Vestibule

Area bounded laterally by medial aspect of the labia minora and fourchette. An anterior surface of hymenal membrane forms the internal boundary apart of the labia minora.

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The Facts About “Hymen”

Membranous collar/semi-collar at vaginal opening.
Separates the external genitalia from vagina.
Outer surface is squamous epithelium.
Inner surface is mucous membrane.
Varied in size and shape.
Under the influence of estrogen - causes it to thicken and pale.
There is always one present!!! – It is never correct to chart “no hymen present.”
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**Hymen**

Newborn has estrogen from mom – hymen is estrogenized
   Elastic, not sensitive to pain, sticks out

Estrogen drops between ages 2-4

Child – hymen not estrogenized
   Non-elastic, sensitive to pain, shrinks and goes inward

Adolescent – hymen is estrogenized

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**Hymen**

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**Hymen: Appearance**

The hymen in a 20 year-old not sexually active

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Hymen Types

- Crescent
- Septated
- Enlarged

Note - sulcus/crease naturally reddened

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Others...

- Collar-like hymen
- Annular hymen

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Hymen Types

- Unestrogenized hymen
- Estrogenized hymen

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Hymen: Note

- Estrogen effects
- Signs of trauma or scar tissue
  (only if unable to consent)

Several studies have shown
~ 10% of first sexual encounters
result in hymen injury on direct visualization.

Forbidden!

Do not examine:
- unestrogenized
- post-menopausal

Vaginal Introitus

The opening or entrance into the vaginal canal
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Vagina
Tubular, musculomembranous canal
Extends inward from hymen to uterine cervix
Excretory canal for uterine secretions and menstrual blood
Organ of copulation
Capable of dilation and constriction

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Cervix
Cylindrical part of uterus that protrudes 1 – 3 cm into vagina
Round in shape
Color and appearance varies
Opening is the cervical os
May have variety of shapes and appearances

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Cervix
Nulliparous cervix, note redness surrounding os
Fossa Navicularis
Concave area between the posterior attachment of the hymen to the vaginal wall and posterior fourchette – apart of labia minora.

Posterior Fourchette
The point where the labia minora meet posterior.

Perineum
Surface between the posterior forchette and the anus
The external surface of the perineal body.
Anal Anatomy

Anus – lower opening of the digestive tract, outlet of rectum surrounded by internal and external sphincter

Perianal folds are wrinkles/folds radiating from the anus created by the contraction of the external anal sphincter

Lying in the fold between buttocks

Don’t forget about it…

Anal Canal

Length 4 cm
Extraperitoneal
Pain sensitive
No lubrication
Sphincter muscle
  internal - autonomic
  external - voluntary

Anus

Normal adult anus
Diastasis Ani
A smooth, often "V" shaped or wedge-shaped area at twelve and/or six o'clock
Do not confuse with scar tissue, healed injury, contusion

Pectinate Line
The pectinate line (anocutaneous line, dentate line, anal verge, anorectal junction) is a line which divides the anal canal into upper and lower half.
Saw-tooth line of demarcation (change in color) appearing when external and internal anal sphincters relax
Do not confuse with injury, scarring

Pectinate Line
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Rectum

- Length 12-15 cm
- Lower part of large intestine
- Partially intra-peritoneal
- Insensitive to pain

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How Would You Explain This to a Jury?

- Labia majora – beginning of female genitalia or outer folds of tissue
- Labia minora – thinner, inner folds of tissue, absent of hair
- Clitoris – a point of sensitivity
- Urethra – where urine passes, where you pee from
- Hymen – collar of tissue that surrounds the vaginal opening (very rarely covers opening)
- Vagina – canal baby passes through during birth
- Anus – where stool passes, where you poop from

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Tanner Stages

DO NOT USE TO ESTIMATE AGE