# Guided Lecture Notes, Chapter 38, The Reproductive System

Learning Objective 1. Describe the primary function of the reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 2 to 8**.)

* Define *reproduction*. Discuss why reproduction is necessary for a species to survive.
* Discuss the human sex cells in males and females. Explain that to keep the number of chromosomes the same from generation to generation, each sex cell contains only *half* the normal number of chromosomes.
* Define *conception*.
* Define the function of the reproductive system.
* Discuss the overall differences between the male and female reproductive systems.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 2. List the organs that make up the female reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 10 and 11**.)

* Using an anatomic model or chart to point out each organ as you mention it, list the internal organs, the outer structures, and the accessory organs of the female reproductive system.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 3. Discuss the normal function of the female reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 12 to 29**.)

* Explain the structure and function of ovaries. Describe the process of ovulation.
* Explain the structure and function of the fallopian tubes. Mention that if conception occurs, it takes place in the fallopian tubes.
* Describe the factors that help the egg move from the ovary to the uterus through the fallopian tubes.
* Explain the structure and function of the uterus. Mention that the uterus is also called the *womb*.
* Explain the structure of the vagina.
* Discuss the parts of the vulva.
* Discuss why the female breast is called an accessory organ. Explain the structure of the female breast.
* Describe the process of lactation.
* Describe the phases of a woman’s monthly cycle.
* Discuss the biofeedback mechanism that limits the number of follicles that mature each month.
* Discuss the role of estrogen and progesterone in the process of fertilization and implantation of the egg.
* Discuss what happens if fertilization does not occur.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 4. Explain the effects of aging on the female reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 30 to 36**.)

* Discuss the effects of aging on the female reproductive system, such as increased difficulty in conceiving, decreased sex hormone production, and menopause.
* Discuss the bothersome symptoms of menopause. How can they be alleviated through hormone replacement therapy (HRT)? Discuss the latest recommendations concerning HRT. Mention that it is important for each woman to work with her health care provider to determine whether HRT is right for her, given her unique situation and health history.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 5. Describe the disorders that may affect the female reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 37 to 53**.)

* List disorders that can affect the female reproductive system, such as problems with the menstrual cycle, cysts, noncancerous tumors, and cancer.
* Describe the types of menstrual cycle disorders, such as amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, and menorrhagia.
* Discuss the causes of, and treatment methods for, infertility in women.
* Describe the effects of cysts and fibroids.
* Describe the types of pelvic organ prolapse and treatments for each.
* List the types of cancers of the female reproductive system. Describe their symptoms and treatments.
* Discuss why women are encouraged to get into the habit of examining their breasts at the same time each month.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 6. List diagnostic tests commonly used to detect disorders of the female reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 54 to 62**.)

* Explain that people may be uncomfortable discussing problems related to their reproductive organs. Explain that it is important for the nursing assistant to ensure privacy and respect the person’s modesty.
* Describe the commonly used diagnostic procedures for detecting and evaluating disorders of the female reproductive system, such as Pap test, biopsy, dilation and curettage, imaging studies, ultrasonography, and mammography.
* Describe surgical procedures, such as mastectomy and hysterectomy, that are commonly used to treat disorders of the female reproductive system.
* Discuss the difference between total abdominal hysterectomy (TAH) and total vaginal hysterectomy (TVH).
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 7. List the organs that make up the male reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 63 to 69**.)

* Using an anatomic model or chart to point out each organ as you mention it, list the organs of the male reproductive system.
* Explain the function of the testicles in reproduction.
* Explain that the sperm cells mature in the epididymis and gain the ability to swim.
* Explain the function of the vas deferens and the penis.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 8. Discuss the normal function of the male reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 70-72**.)

* State that the two main functions of the male reproductive system are to produce and nourish male sex cells (sperm) and to deposit these cells inside the female’s body, so that fertilization can occur.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 9. Explain the effects of aging on the male reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 73 and 74**.)

* List the effects of aging on the male reproductive system, such as decreased frequency and duration of erections and enlargement of the prostate gland. Describe the factors responsible for these effects.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 10. Describe the disorders that may affect the male reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 75 to 79**.)

* List common disorders that can affect the male reproductive system, such as impotence and cancer. Discuss the methods of treatment for both.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 11. List diagnostic tests commonly used to detect disorders of the male reproductive system. (Refer to **PowerPoint slide 80**.)

* Discuss common diagnostic procedures, such as blood tests and biopsy, that are used to help diagnose and evaluate disorders of the male reproductive system.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.

Learning Objective 12. Discuss sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that may affect the male or female reproductive systems and ways to prevent them. (Refer to **PowerPoint slides 81** **to 90**.)

* Describe how sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are commonly transmitted (e.g., in semen and vaginal secretions). Mention that, although infection of the organs of the reproductive system is most common, mucous membranes of the eyes, mouth, or anus can also become infected following contact with semen or vaginal secretions. Note that some STIs, such as acquired immunodeficiency deficiency syndrome (AIDS), affect the entire body.
* List common STIs, such as herpes simplex, gonorrhea, chlamydia, genital warts, syphilis, and AIDS. Discuss whether each disease is caused by a bacteria or a virus.
* Explain why prevention of STIs is important.
* Discuss common methods of preventing STIs: condom use, abstinence. Stress that knowledge of STIs is the key to preventing them.
* Explain why follow-up with a health care provider is important after receiving treatment for an STI to make sure the infection is totally cured.
* Stress the importance for both partners to receive treatment at the same time.
* Discuss why it is important for the nursing assistant to maintain knowledge surrounding STIs regardless of the health care environment in which they work.
* Have learners refer to learning activities located at the end of the chapter.