

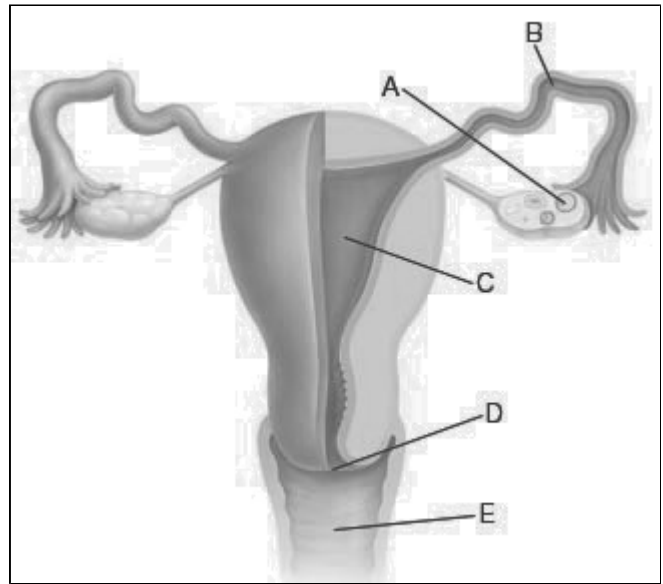
## Female Reproductive Anatomy

The reproductive system is the part of the body involved in sexual function. In women, this system is also responsible for nourishing and supporting a baby as it develops. Below are the main parts of the female reproductive anatomy.

A doctor that specializes in caring for a woman's reproductive system is called a **gynecologist**.

### Front View

- A. **Ovaries** store eggs (female reproductive cells). About once a month, an egg is released from an ovary. This is called ovulation.
- B. **Fallopian tubes** carry eggs to the uterus. Pregnancy occurs if a man's sperm fertilizes an egg as it moves through the tube.
- C. The **uterus** is a hollow, muscular, pear-shaped organ. If an egg has been fertilized, the embryo implants in the lining of the uterus where it grows into a baby.
- D. The **cervix** is the narrow canal where the uterus and vagina meet.
- E. The **vagina** is the pathway that connects the uterus with the outside of the body.



During ovulation, the lining of the uterus thickens. This helps prepare the uterus to receive and nourish a fertilized egg. If pregnancy doesn't occur, the thickened lining is no longer needed. It is then shed through the vagina as menstrual bleeding (having a period).