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COLLEGE: MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT: PHYSIOLOGY

MATRICULATION NUMBER: 18/MHS01/357

COURSE: GROSS ANATOMY OF THE PELVIS AND PERINEUM

Gross Anatomy of the female external genitalia

The external genital organs include the mons pubis, labia majora, labia minora, Bartholin glands, and clitoris. The area containing these organs is called the vulva.

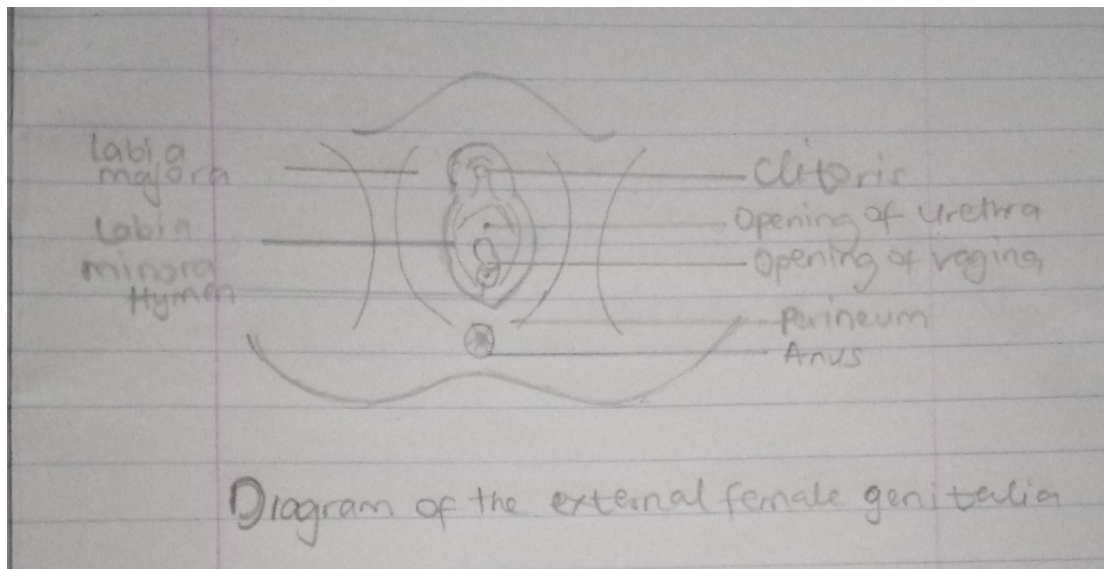
The functions includes; enabling sperm to enter the body and protecting the internal genital organs from infectious organisms.

The mons pubis is a rounded mound of fatty tissue that covers the pubic bone. It is covered with hair, and it contains oil-secreting or sebaceous glands that release substances called pheromones that are involved in sexual attraction.

The labia majora are like large lips because they are relatively large, fleshy folds of tissue that enclose and protect the other external genital organs. They are comparable to the scrotum in males. The labia majora contain sweat and sebaceous glands, which produce lubricating secretions.

The labia minora are like small lips. They can be very small or up to 2 inches wide. The labia minora lie just inside the labia majora and surround the openings to the vagina and urethra. A rich supply of blood vessels gives the labia minora a pink color. During sexual stimulation, these blood

vessels become engorged with blood, causing the labia minora to swell and become more sensitive to stimulation.



When stimulated, Bartholin glands (located beside the vaginal opening) secrete a thick fluid that supplies lubrication for intercourse.

The opening to the urethra, which carries urine from the bladder to the outside, is located above and in front of the vaginal opening.

The clitoris, located between the labia minora at their upper end, is a small protrusion that corresponds to the penis in the male. The clitoris, like the glans penis, is very sensitive to sexual stimulation.

Blood Supply

It is mainly from the pudendal artery and its branches to the urogenital and anal triangles. The lateral aspects of the external genitalia receive their blood supply from the external pudendal artery, a branch of the femoral artery.

Lymphatic drainage

It is via the superficial and deep inguinal lymph nodes. Lymph from the clitoris, vestibular bulb and anterior labia minora can alternatively drain into the internal iliac lymph nodes.