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NURSING

ASSIGNMENT

Discuss the factors facilitating the movement of sperm in the female reproductive tract

Sperm transport within the female reproductive tract is a cooperative effort between the functional properties of the sperm and seminal fluid on the one hand and cyclic adaptations of the female reproductive tract that facilitate the transport of sperm toward the ovulated egg. The normal environment of the vagina is inhospitable to the survival of sperm, principally because of its low pH (<5.0). The low pH of the vagina is a protective mechanism for the woman against many sexually transmitted pathogens, because no tissue barrier exists between the vagina (outside) and the peritoneal cavity (inside). The acidic pH of the vagina is bacteriocidal and is the reflection of an unusual functional adaptation of the vaginal epithelium. Alone among the stratified squamous epithelia in the body, the cells of the vaginal lining contain large amounts of glycogen. Anaerobic lactobacilli within the vagina break down the glycogen from shed vaginal epithelial cells, with the production of lactic acid as a byproduct. The lactic acid is responsible for the lowered vaginal pH. Introduction of semen the pH of the upper vagina is raised from 4.3 to 7.2, creating an environment favorable for sperm motility.

Sperm cells are introduced into the female reproductive tract through sexual intercourse, only few survive and get to the cervical canal before they get to the final destination (p.s that's to show women are hard to get).

1. Semen: The alkaline secretions from prostate gland into the semen help to create an alkaline environment in the acidic vagina to protect the sperm in the vagina.

Prostaglandins present in the semen and also in the female reproductive tract facilitates myometrial contractions.

2. Oestrogen and oxytocin: This is found in the female reproductive tract help to assist myometrial contraction in order to facilitate the upward motility of sperm towards the oviduct. Oestrogen facilitates the production of a watery mucus in the cervix during the timing of ovulation so as to allow easy passage of sperm