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ASSIGNMENT

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

The following are factors that facilitate the movement of sperm in the female reproductive tract:

In the semen;

- Alkaline secretions from the prostate gland into the semen helps to create an alkaline environment in the acidic vagina to protect sperm in the vagina.
- Prostaglandins present in the semen (and the female reproductive tract) cause myometrial contractions to help the movement of sperm towards the oviduct.

In the female reproductive tract;

- Oestrogen and oxytocin secreted in females helps to assist myometrial contractions 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 to allow easy passage of sperm.

The cervical entrance is not only very small, but it is blocked by cervical mucus. During most times in the menstrual cycle, cervical mucus is highly sticky (G mucus) and represents an almost impenetrable barrier to sperm penetration. Around the time of ovulation, however, the estrogenic environment of the female reproductive system brings about a change in

cervical mucus, rendering it more watery and more amenable to penetration by sperm (E mucus).