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**DISCUSS THE FACTORS FACILITATING THE MOVEMENT OF SPERM IN THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE TRACT**

At coitus, human sperm are deposited into the anterior vagina, where, to avoid vaginal acid and immune responses, they quickly contract cervical mucus and enter the cervix. Cervical mucus filters sperm with poor morphology and motility and as such only a minority of ejaculated sperm actually enter the cervix.

In the uterus, muscular contractions may enhance passage of sperm through the uterine cavity. A few thousand sperm swim through the uterotubal junctions to reach the fallopian tubes [uterine tubes, oviducts] where sperm are stored in the reservoir, or at least maintained in a fertile state, by interacting with endosalpingeal [oviductal] epithelium. As the time of ovulation approaches, sperm become capacitated and hyperactivated, which enables them to proceed towards the tubal ampulla. Sperm may be guided to the oocyte by a combination of thermotaxis and chemotaxis. Motility hyperactivation assists sperm in penetrating mucus in the tubes and the cumulus oophorus and zona pellucida of the oocyte plasma membrane. Knowledge of the biology of sperm transport can inspire improvements in artificial insemination, IVF, the diagnosis of infertility and the development of contraceptives.