

➤ THE PENIS

Parts of the penis

glans penis = head of the penis

penile shaft = body of the penis

corona glandis = rounded ridge at back end of the glans penis

penile prepuce (foreskin) = not present in circumcised men; small glands under the foreskin secrete oil which when mixed with skin cells produces **smegma**

Retraction of the foreskin to remove smegma with soap and water is important to prevent bacterial infection.

Penile shaft contains three cylindrical spongy tissue masses, two of which are the **corpus cavernosa** on the top of the shaft and the **corpus spongiosum** on the bottom of the shaft (through which the urethra runs).

- Length of non-erect (flaccid) penis is usually between 8.5 to 10.5 cm (3.3 to 4.1 inches) with an average of 9.5 cm (3.7 inches)
- The average length of an erect penis is 16 cm (6.3 inches) with a range of 12 cm to 23.5 cm (4.7 to 9.2 inches).
- Average circumference of an erect penis at its thickest point is 13.2 cm (5.2 inches)
- There is no correlation between skeletal system make-up and penis size. A smaller non-erect penis will enlarge more during erection than a larger non-erect penis.

➤ THE CLITORIS

The clitoris lies at the junction of the upper of the two labia minora above the urethral opening.

- The average length is about 2.5 cm (1 inch) with an average diameter of ½ inch. There is much individual variation with regard to size and shape.
- The **clitoral shaft** (similar to the penile shaft) contains a pair of **corpora cavernosa** spongy tissue cylinders. There is no **corpus spongiosum** in the clitoris. This tissue is the **labia minora** in females (same embryological origin as the corpus spongiosum in the penis).

The clitoral glans (head or tip) is covered by the **clitoral prepuce** (similar to the foreskin of the penis).

The clitoris is rich in deep pressure and temperature receptors with only few touch receptors. Plays an important role in sexual arousal. During the plateau phase the deep pressure receptors are important for detecting stimulation of the retracted clitoris through the clitoral hood and mons.