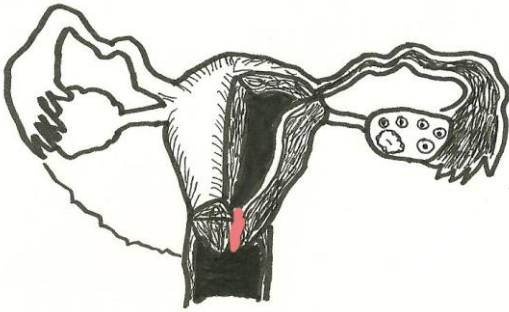


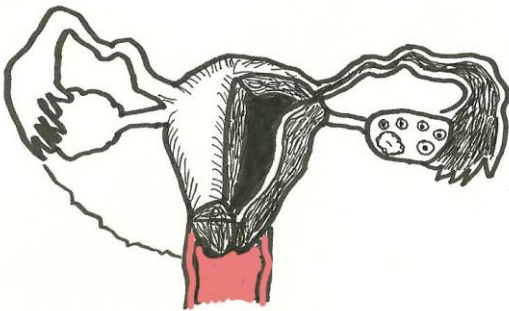
THE CERVIX

The narrowest and lowest portion of the uterus is called the cervix. The cervix is visible to a medical doctor who looks down the vagina tunnel to the farthest end (using a light to see, and a speculum to hold the vagina tunnel open). The cervix is the part of the uterus from which a sample called a pap smear is taken by a doctor who is looking for early signs of cervical cancer.



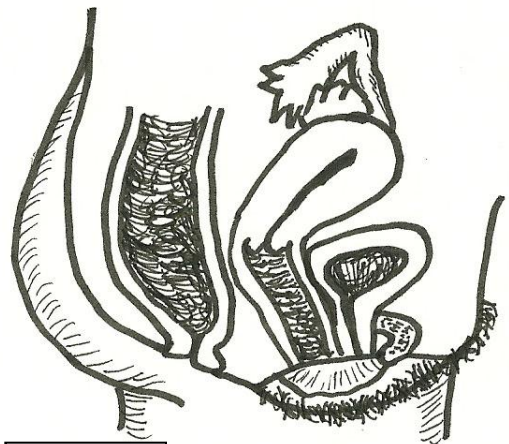
THE OS

In the center of the cervix is a small opening called the os. This opening is the one that sperm must enter if they hope to get to the egg. This opening is the one which allows blood and tissue from the endometrium to enter the vagina during menstruation. This opening has to widen to 10 centimeters before a baby can be born!



THE VAGINA

The vagina is a tunnel. One end of the vagina tunnel (the back wall of the tunnel) is located at the cervix. The other end of the vagina tunnel is the opening (called the introitus) located within the vestibule of the vulva. In this drawing you see only the deepest part of the vagina tunnel next to the cervix.



back
(buttocks
cheek)

front
(pubic
hair)

ORIENTATION TO A SAGITTAL SECTION THROUGH THE FEMALE PELVIS

If the body of a woman were to be cut exactly down the middle – creating an equal sized left half and right half – anatomists would call the resulting cut surfaces mid-sagittal sections.

This drawing is a representation of a mid-sagittal section of a female pelvis.

Structures found in the middle of the female body, such as the uterus, bladder, and clitoris would have cut surfaces exposing the midline of these organs.

In this mid-sagittal view you can tell which is the back portion by recognizing the cheek of the buttocks. You can tell which is the front portion by recognizing the pubic hair.