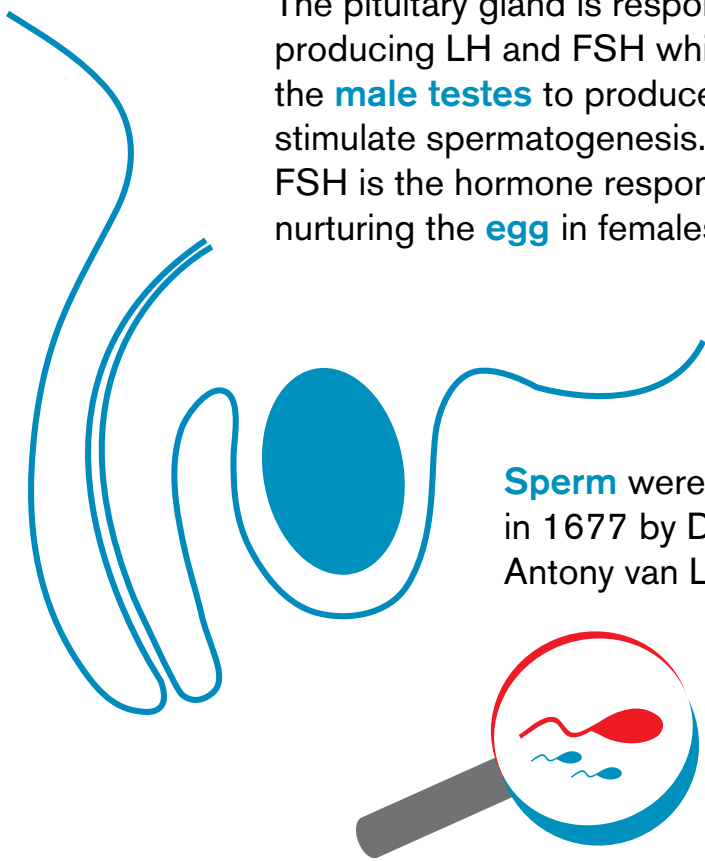


The sperm

The pituitary gland is responsible for producing LH and FSH which prompts the **male testes** to produce **sperm** and stimulate spermatogenesis. Interestingly FSH is the hormone responsible for nurturing the **egg** in females.



Sperm were discovered in 1677 by Dutchman Antony van Leeuwenbhoek.

Through computational modelling it has been estimated that the DNA information in a **single sperm** contains capacity for

 **35MB** of data.

On this basis, the average ejaculation contains:

1,500TB or **1.5PB** of data.



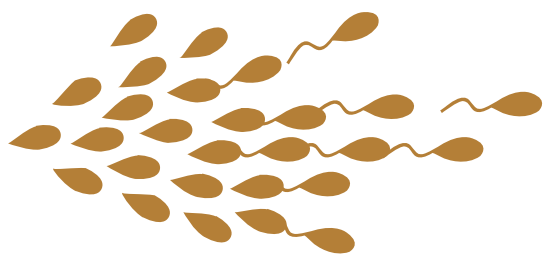
or the capacity for

10 billion

Facebook photos.

(At the start of 2013, there were only 240 billion on Facebook.)

The term **sperm** is derived from the Greek word "sperma" meaning **seed**



Sperm counts

According to the World Health Organisation an average male produces **1.5 ml of ejaculate** – approximately the equivalent of




On average semen analysis shows that **sperm** represents only approximately

10%  of the total volume.

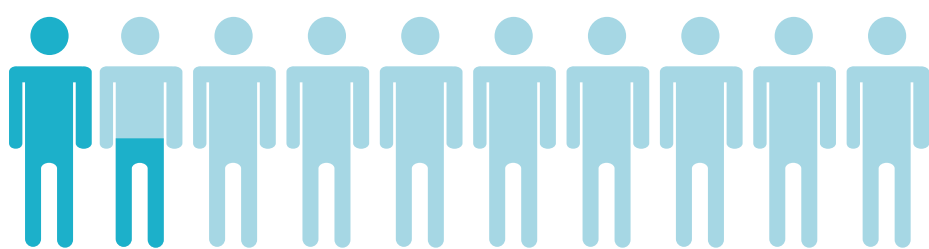
15 million/ml

The minimum number of sperm needed to have what is considered the **best chance of pregnancy**.

Studies found that men with a history of disturbed sleep  have lower **sperm counts** by **↓29%**

15%


of men with very **low or absent sperm counts** suffer from micro deletions, a phenomenon where the Y chromosome is missing key genetic information.



Sperm cells

Other cells in the body




23 chromosome pairs

Sperm (Haploid) cell




23 chromosomes

Body Mass Index



18.5-24.9

This is what is considered the ideal and normal range for your **Body Mass Index (BMI)**. If you and your partner are trying to fall pregnant, it is important you try and stay within this range as studies have found improvements in sperm quality for males with a **BMI** within this range.

Sperm is the smallest cell in the human body.



An immature **sperm** is called a spermatid.

The egg is the largest cell in the human body

Sperm motility

40% 

The minimum percentage of **sperm** cells moving in a sperm sample to be considered normal.



Sperm swim in both a straight line and in a corkscrew manner progressively.



Sperm morphology

4% 

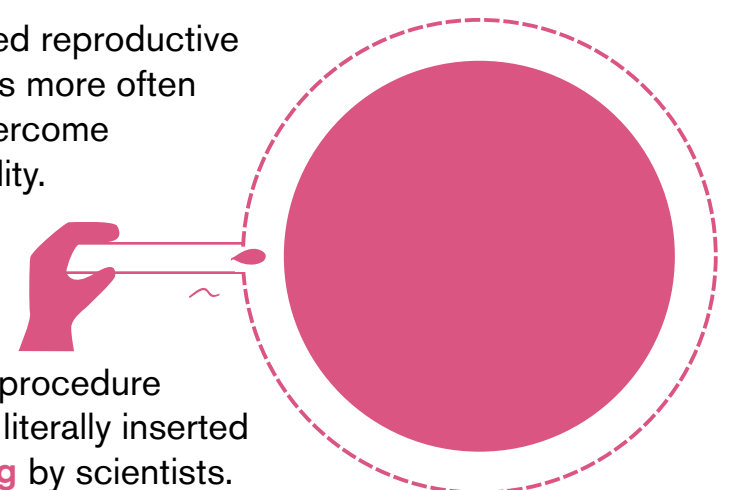
The minimum number of normally shaped **sperm** your sample needs to be considered normal.

ICSI

(Intra-cytoplasmic Sperm Injection)

If a male has **poor morphology** (sperm with non-normal shape), **poor motility** (movement), or **low sperm counts**, IVF alone may not prove successful. In this instance a procedure called **ICSI** may be utilised.

This assisted reproductive technique is more often used to overcome male infertility.



Under this procedure **sperm** are literally inserted into the **egg** by scientists.