

## COMPLICATION TERMS

Following are a list of terms that deal with reproduction problems. If any of these items are out of balance or not working correctly, conception is more difficult and, in many cases, cannot occur.

**BREAST CANCER**--abnormal cell growth of the breast tissue. The number two killer among women. It is usually detected by a lump in the breast. Self-exams should be done on a monthly basis.

**CIRCUMCISION**--to cut off the foreskin of the penis.

**ENDOMETRIOSIS**--when the endometrium backs up into the fallopian tubes instead of being released to the outside of the body. The endometrium causes scar tissue and further complications.

**ESTROGEN**--a hormone that promotes development of various female characteristics.

**HERNIA**--when part of the intestine protrudes down the inguinal canal into the scrotum. It is caused by exertion increasing the pressure of the intestine against a congenitally weak spot in the abdominal wall.

**HYSTERECTOMY**--surgical procedure in which the uterus is completely removed.

**PMS (PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME)**--a condition that occurs 7-10 days before the menstrual period begins. Symptoms include headaches, backaches, weight gain, breast-tenderness, water retention, food craving, fainting, and clumsiness. Symptoms generally improve with the onset of bleeding.

**PROGESTERONE**--a hormone of the ovary that prepares the uterus to receive the fertilized ovum.

**PROSTATE CANCER**--abnormal cell growth in the prostate gland. It can be slow growing or fast growing. One-third of all men in their sixties have some slow growing cancerous cells in their prostate.

**PROSTATITIS**--a bacterial infection of the prostate.

**PROSTATOSIS**--undiagnosed penis pain that may be caused by a stressed urinary sphincter, muscle valve, or stress. Sometimes it is aggravated by diet.

**RADICAL HYSTERECTOMY**--surgical removal of the uterus, cervix, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.

**TESTOSTERONE**--male sex hormone manufactured in the testicles. It is responsible for puberty and sperm cell production.

**TOTAL HYSTERECTOMY**--surgical removal of the uterus and cervix.

**TUBAL LIGATION**--the tying or binding of the fallopian tubes as a method of sterilization.

**UTERINE OR CERVICAL CANCER**--abnormal growth of cells in the uterus or cervix. Symptoms include abnormal bleeding or vaginal discharge or the appearance of a tumor. This is detected by a pap smear and treated by surgery or radiation.

**VAGINITIS**--any vaginal infection or inflammation characterized by a change in vaginal discharge (examples: yeast or monilia infection).

**VASECTOMY**--male sterilization operation performed under local anesthesia. It involves cutting the vas deferens. Surgery can be reversed in over half the cases.