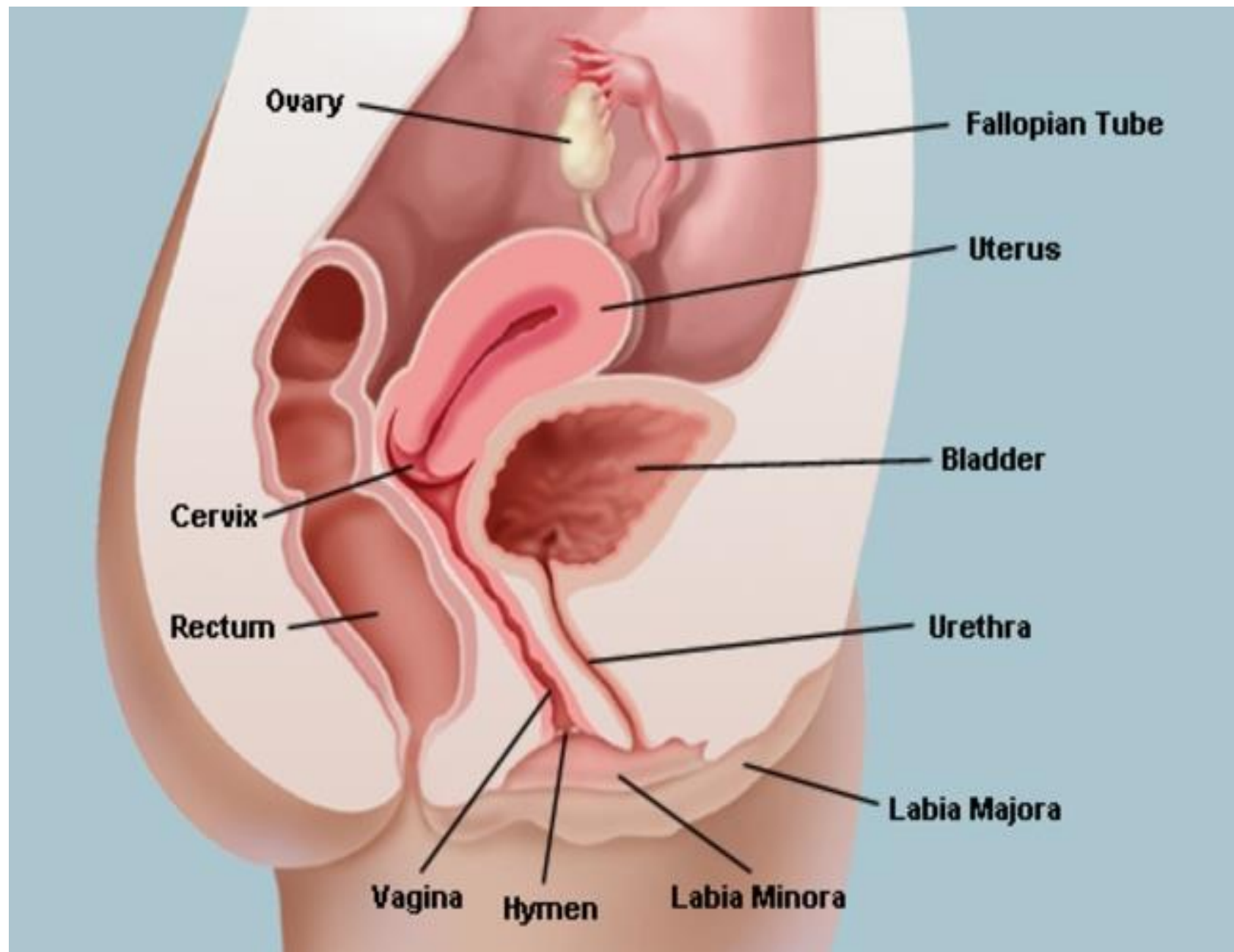


# VAGINA

- **The vagina – latin – vagina – sheath**  
**Greek – colpos hollow**
- **It is the elastic, tubular, muscular part of female genital tract**
- **It extends from the cervix to the external vaginal orifice**
- **Its lower end opens to the anterior through the vestibule.**
- **At its upper end it is attached to the cervix of the uterus.**  
**It is situated behind the bladder and the urethra and in front of the rectum and anal canal.**  
**Anterior wall – 8 cm long**  
**Posterior wall – 10cm long**

It has several roles within the female reproductive system:

- **Sexual intercourse** – sperm receives the penis and ejaculate, assisting in its transport to the uterus.
- **Childbirth** – expands to provide a channel for delivery of a newborn from the uterus.
- **Menstruation** – serves as a canal for menstrual fluid and tissue to leave the body.



- In the virgin the lower end of the vagina is partially closed by a thin annular fold of mucous membrane called the hymen.
- In married women the hymen is represented by rounded elevations around the vaginal orifice the carunculae hymenales
- **Fornices of vagina** :- the inferior of the upper end of the vagina form of a auricular groove that surrounded the protruding cervix
- **Anterior fornix** :- it lies in front of the cervix and shallowest.
- **Posterior fornix** :- it lies behind the cervix and is deepest

The vagina is opened  
with electrocautery

Fundal hysterotomy

Placental  
edge

Bladder

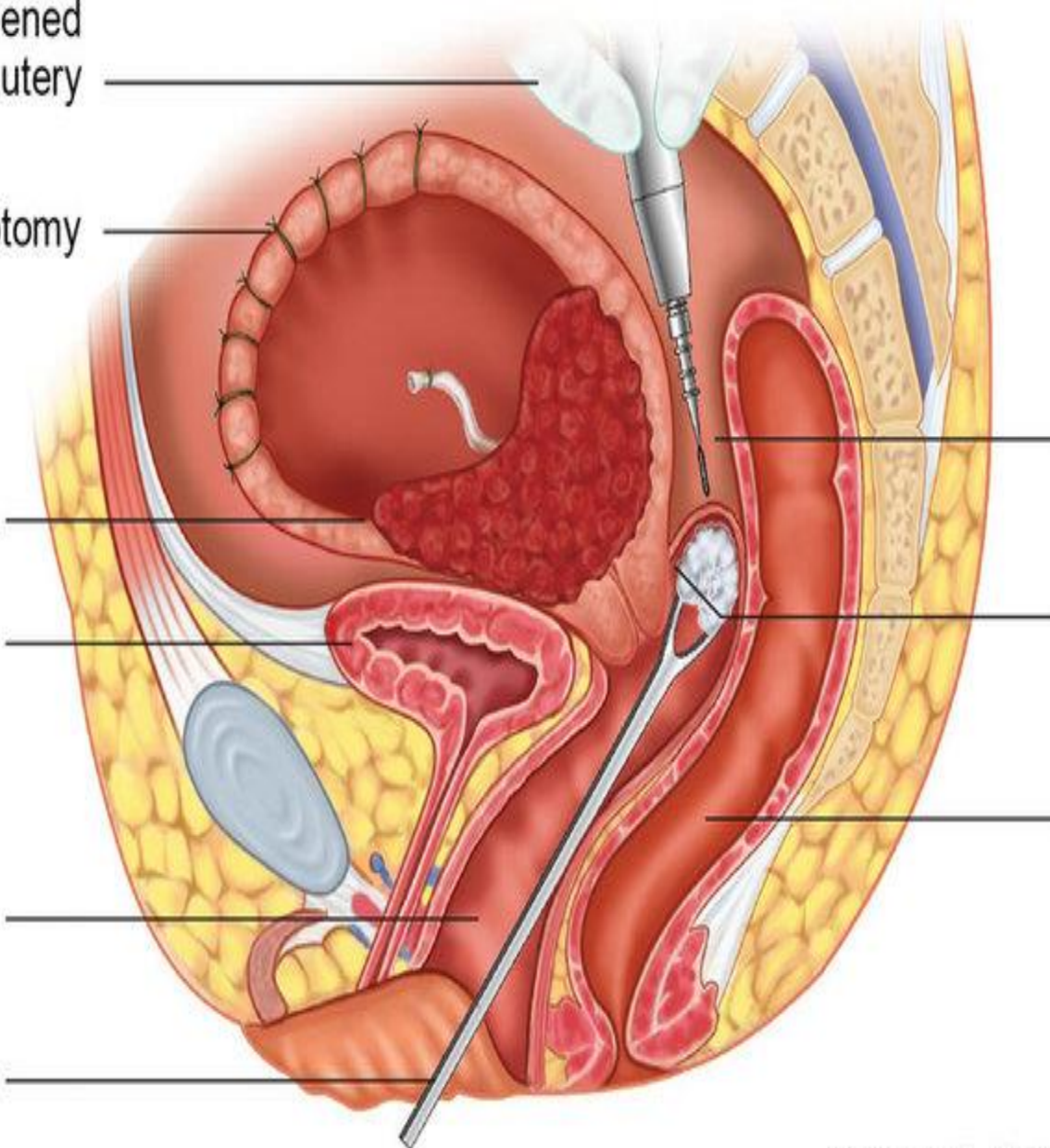
Vagina

Sponge stick

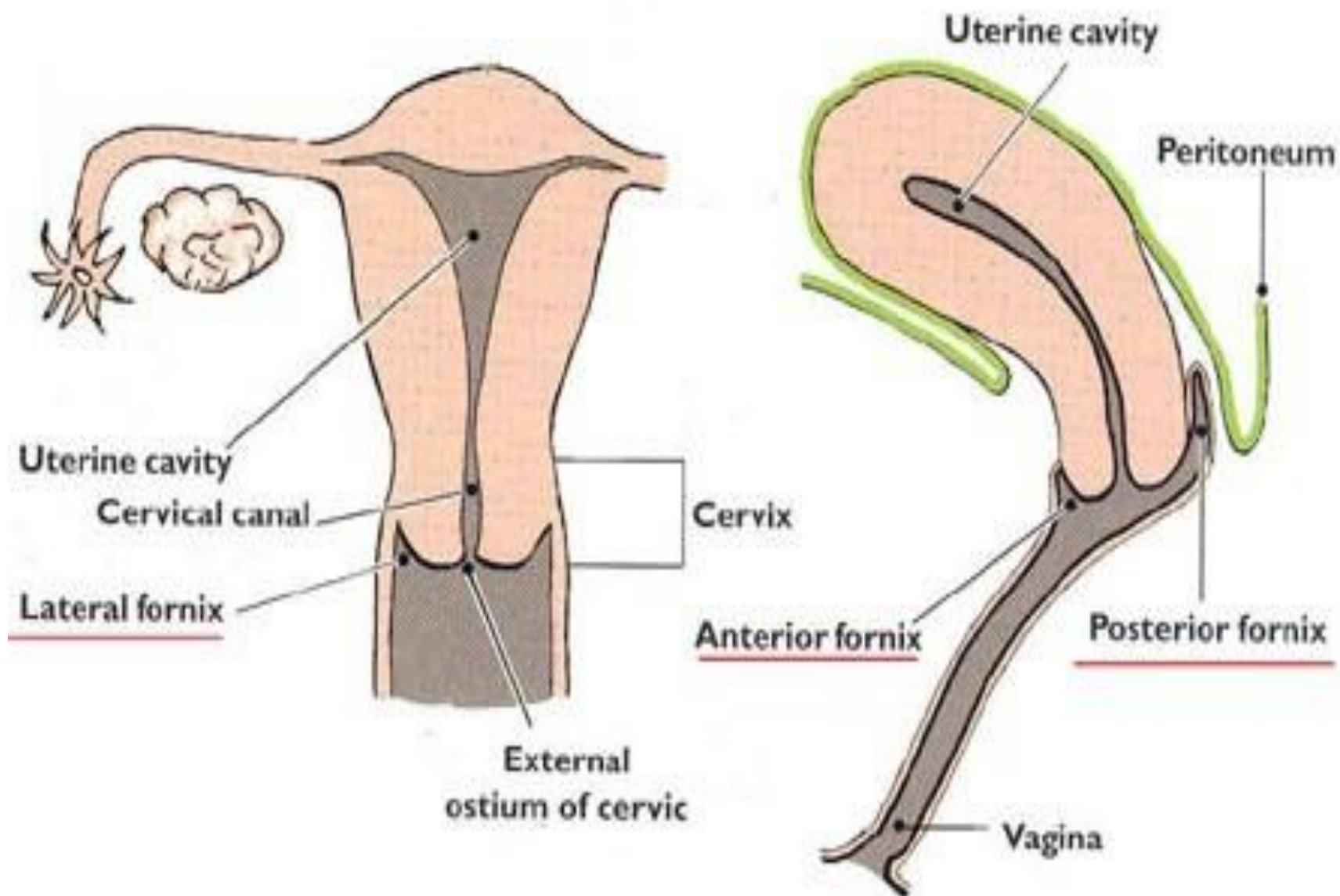
Pouch  
of Douglas

Posterior  
vaginal fornix

Rectum



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## Note-

- The **posterior fornix** is important as it acts like a natural reservoir for semen after intravaginal ejaculation.
- The semen retained in the fornix liquefies in the next 20-30 mins, allowing for easier permeation through the cervical canal
- **Lateral fornix** :- it lies one on each side of the cervix.

- **Arterial supply** :- vaginal branch of the internal iliac artery.
- Upper part :- cervicovaginal branch of the uterine artery
- Lower part :- middle rectal internal pundental arteries
- Branches of these arteries anastomoses to form anterior and posterior midline vessels called the vaginal azygous arteries

## **Nerve supply :-**

### ➤ **Sympathetic**

- lower 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the vagina – pudendal nerve
- Upper 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the vagina – L1 , L2

**Parasympathetic** - S2 , S3, S4

## Clinical anatomy :-

- **Vaginal lacerations** :- traumatic lacerations of vagina are common and may be caused by forcible coitus, during child birth, or by accidents. This may give rise to profuse bleeding.
- **Vaginitis** :- it is common before puberty and after menopause because of the then delicate epithelium.
- Vaginitis is commonly caused by the trichomonas, candidiassis and gonococal infections

- **Prolapse** :- Prolapse of the anterior wall of vagina drags the bladder urethra, the posterior wall drags the rectum
- **Neoplasms** :- primary new growths of vagina, like the infections, are uncommon. However secondary involvement of vagina by the cancer cervix is very common.
- **Vaginal Fistula-** it is an open communication between the vagina and one of the adjacent pelvic organs.



Normal Anatomy



Uterine Prolapse



Vaginal Prolapse

