

A close-up, profile shot of a woman with blonde hair, looking out over a body of water under a clear sky. The image has a soft, natural light quality.

SIEMENS

Women's health depends on a lifetime
of answers—one test at a time.

Women and Infertility

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Answers for life.

Women and Infertility

Infertility affects approximately 10% of the population. Since infertility strikes diverse groups—affecting people from all socioeconomic levels and cutting across racial, ethnic, and religious lines—chances are great that a friend, relative, or neighbor is attempting to cope with the medical and emotional aspects of infertility.¹



What Is Infertility?

Infertility is a disease of the reproductive system defined by the failure to achieve a clinical pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse.²



The Economic Burden of Infertility

The American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) lists the average price of an in vitro fertilization cycle in the U.S. to be \$12,400 (medications not included).³

Gender Differences

Both women and men can have problems that cause infertility. About one-third of infertility cases are caused by the male.⁴

Risk Factors

Risk factors that may impact a woman's ability to have a baby include:⁴

- Age
- Smoking
- Excess alcohol use
- Stress
- Poor diet
- Athletic training
- Being overweight or underweight
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Health problems that cause hormonal changes, such as polycystic ovarian syndrome and primary ovarian insufficiency



Causes of Infertility

Most cases of female infertility are caused by problems with ovulation. Signs that a woman is not ovulating normally include irregular or absent menstrual periods.⁴

Ovulation problems are often caused by polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS). PCOS is a hormone-imbalance problem that can interfere with normal ovulation. PCOS is the most common cause of female infertility.⁴

Primary ovarian insufficiency (POI) is another cause of ovulation problems. POI occurs when a woman's ovaries stop working normally before she is 40 years of age. POI is not the same as menopause.⁴

Less-common causes of infertility in females include:⁴

- Blocked fallopian tubes due to pelvic inflammatory disease, endometriosis, or surgery for an ectopic pregnancy
- Physical problems with the uterus
- Uterine fibroids, which are noncancerous clumps of tissue and muscle on the walls of the uterus

Reproductive endocrinology solutions from Siemens

	ADVIA Centaur® Systems	Dimension® EXL™/RxL Max®/ Xpand® Plus Systems	Dimension Vista® Systems	IMMULITE® Systems	Siemens Imaging Systems
Laboratory Diagnostics					
AFP	●			●	
Androstenedione				●	
Estradiol	●		●	●	
Free beta HCG				●†	
FSH	●		●	●	
Beta hCG	●	●	●	●	
LH	●		●	●	
PAPP-A				●†	
PIGF	●*				
Progesterone	●		●	●	
Prolactin	●		●	●	
SHBG	●			●	
sFlt-1	●*				
Testosterone	●		●*	●	
Unconjugated estriol				●	
Detection					●
Monitoring/Management					●

* Under development. Not available for sale.

† Not available for sale in the U.S.

References

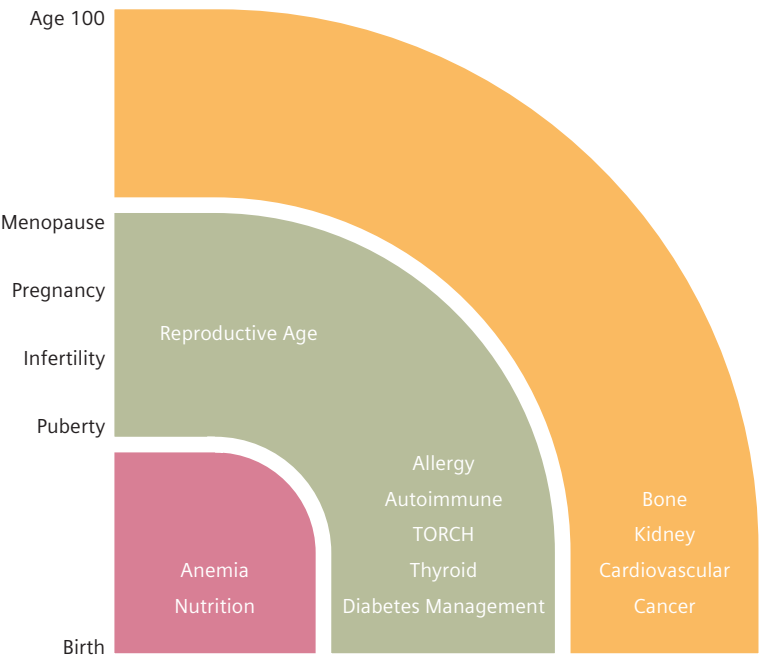
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2. <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/infertility/definitions/en/index.html>
3. http://www.resolve.org/family-building-options/insurance_coverage/the-costs-of-infertility-treatment.html
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Caring for the Infertile Woman

For women struggling with infertility, understanding symptoms, implementing appropriate therapies, and monitoring treatment are important contributions to a successful pregnancy. Laboratory diagnostic testing plays an integral role in caring for women throughout the continuum of their reproductive lives.

As an integrated healthcare company, Siemens’ comprehensive solutions, which include multiple imaging modalities, support reproductive care for a lifetime, including accurate diagnosis and monitoring. In addition, our solutions in healthcare IT support the exchange of data for making informed decisions.

Women's Lifetime Health Continuum





Your results. Her lifetime.

Empowering you to advance the health and vitality of women throughout the continuum of life.

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, a global leader in clinical diagnostics, provides healthcare professionals in hospital, reference, and physician office laboratories and point-of-care settings with the vital information required to accurately diagnose, treat, and monitor patients. Our innovative portfolio of performance-driven solutions and personalized customer care combine to streamline workflow, enhance operational efficiency, and support improved patient outcomes.

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Order No. A91DX-CAI-131707-GC1-4A00
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