

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

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Q Should a guy be able to pee during an erection?

A. Contrary to what you thought in elementary school, no. When a male is sexually aroused, it is physically impossible to urinate during an erection. Why? The passageway from the bladder to urethra (the tube urine and semen travel through to leave the body) closes to prevent urine from leaving and mixing with semen.

The part of the body that closes off the bladder is called the ejaculatory duct. Think of it as a swinging door. When a male is sexually aroused, the duct is open (allowing semen to pass through). When he is not aroused, the duct is closed (allowing urine to pass through). Essentially, the ejaculatory duct keeps sperm alive because urine is acidic and if it mixed with semen, it would mostly likely kill the sperm.

Let's take a closer look at what happens inside the male body when it is sexually aroused.

A little while after the penis becomes erect, a small amount of clear fluid comes out from the tip of the penis. This is not urine, but a pre-ejaculatory fluid produced

by the Cowper's gland. Cowper's fluid coats the inside of the urethra making it a safe and friendly environment for sperm to pass through.

While this happens, sperm travel from epididymis (located in the testes) through the vas deferens and to the seminal vesicle where fructose is added to the ejaculate. It passes through the prostate and picks up another component of semen, prostate fluid. The ejaculatory duct then closes off the bladder and allows ejaculate to pass through to where its last ingredient is added – more Cowper's fluid. Semen then travels through the urethra and out the head of the penis.

Remember, both pre-cum and ejaculate can contain sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. Protect yourself and your partner(s) by using a condom.



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