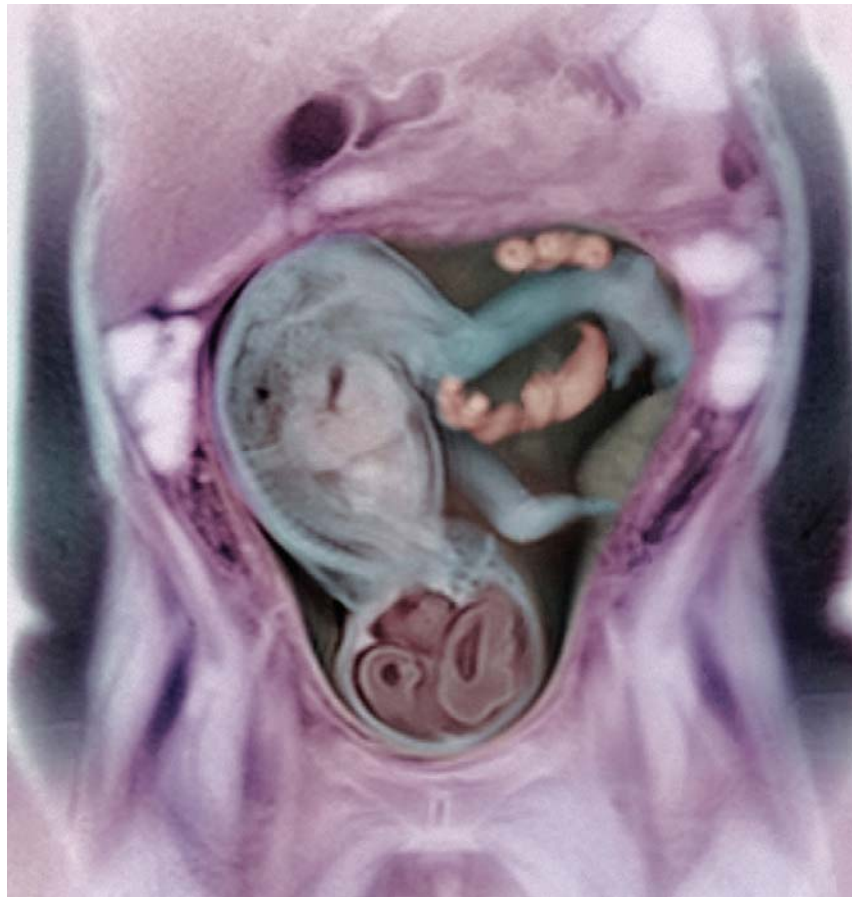
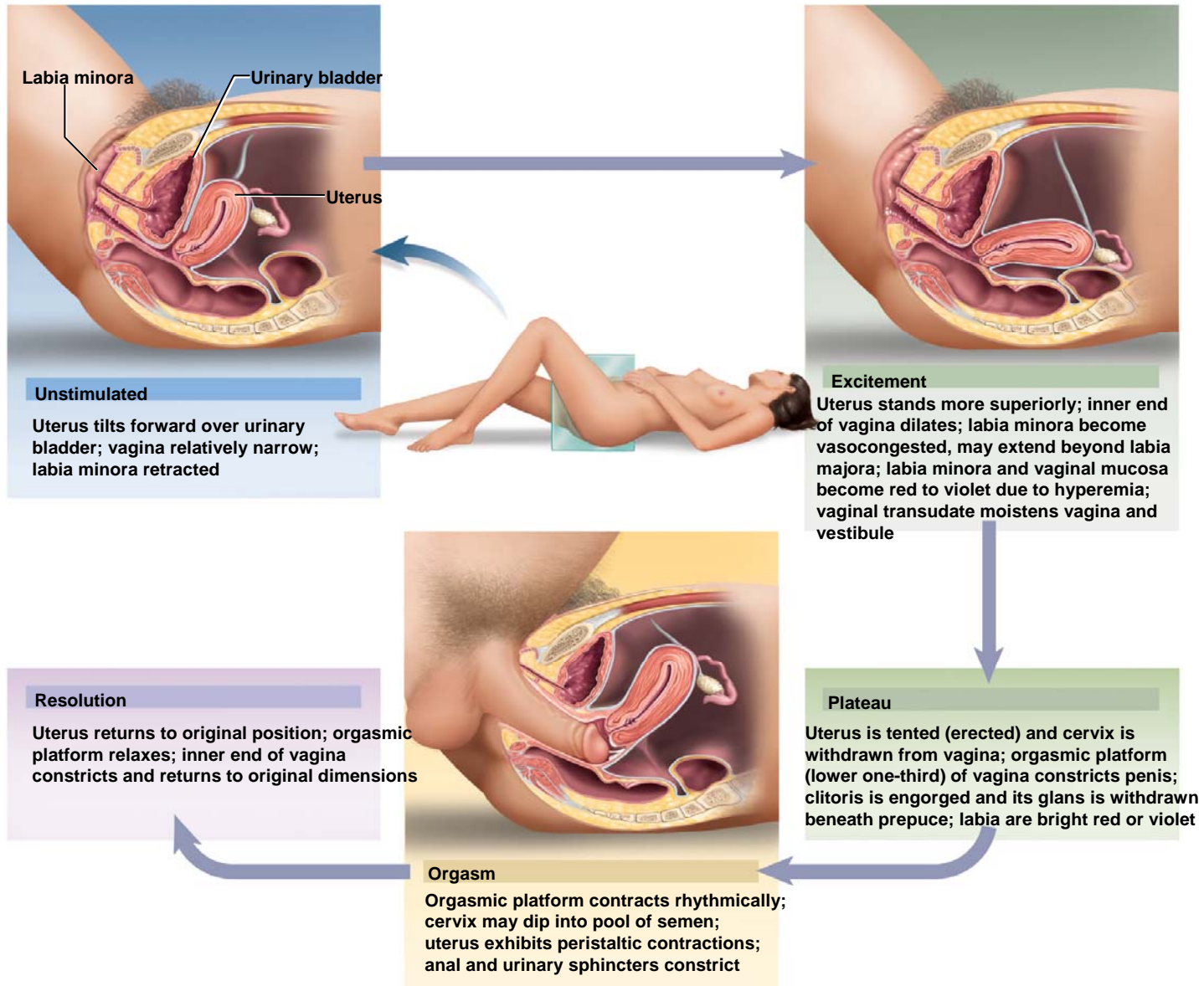


## Chapter 28

# Female Sexual Response



# Female Sexual Response



# Female Sexual Response

- physiological changes that occur during intercourse
  - differences from male
- **excitement** and **plateau**
  - **labia minora** becomes congested and often protrude beyond the labia majora
  - **labia majora** become reddened and enlarged
    - then flatten and spread away from vaginal orifice
  - **vaginal transudate** – serous fluid that seeps through the walls of the canal
  - **greater vestibular gland** secretion moistens the vestibule and provides lubrication
  - lower 1/3 of vagina constricts – the **orgasmic platform**
    - **narrower canal** and **vaginal rugae** enhance stimulation and help induce orgasm in both partners
  - **tenting effect** – uterus stands nearly vertical, where normally it tilts forward over the bladder
  - breasts swell and nipples become erect
  - stimulation of the erect **clitoris** brings about erotic stimulation
    - thrusting of the penis and pressure between the pubic symphyses of the partners

# Female Sexual Response

- **orgasm**

- late in plateau phase, many women experience involuntary pelvis thrusts, followed by 1 to 2 seconds of “suspension” or “stillness” preceding orgasm

- **orgasm** – intense sensation spreading from the clitoris through the pelvis

- sometimes with **pelvic throbbing** and a spreading sense of **warmth**
- pelvic platform gives three to five strong contractions about 0.8 sec apart
- **cervix** plunges spasmodically into vagina and pool of semen
- **uterus** exhibits peristaltic contraction
- anal and urethral sphincters constrict
- **paraurethral glands** (homologous to the prostate) sometimes expel copious fluid similar to prostatic fluid (female ejaculation)
- tachycardia, hyperventilation
- sometimes women experience **reddish, rash-like flush** that appears on the lower abdomen, chest, neck, and face

# Female Sexual Response

- **resolution**
  - the **uterus** drops forward to its resting position
  - **orgasmic platform** quickly relaxes
    - rest of the vagina returns more slowly to its normal dimensions
  - **flush** disappears quickly
  - **areolae and nipples** undergo rapid detumescence
    - may take 5 to 10 minutes for breasts to return to their normal size
  - postorgasmic outbreak of **perspiration**
  - women do not have **refractory period**
    - may quickly experience additional orgasms