

Infertility: Meaning and Causes

Class 12 Biology / NEET High-Yield Revision

Infertility: The inability of a couple to produce children despite unprotected sexual cohabitation.



Exam Keyword Alert: Always include the phrase “unprotected sexual cohabitation” in your Board and NEET definitions. Missing this invalidates the answer.



The Clinical Context

Clinically, infertility is usually diagnosed only after **after two years of trying** without conception.

This differentiates temporary delays from genuine reproductive health issues.



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The Six Categories of Infertility Causes



Physical



Congenital



Diseases



Drugs



Immunological



Psychological



Assertion-Reason Trap: In Indian society, the female is often unfairly blamed for a couple being childless. Biologically and clinically, the problem frequently lies in the male partner.

The Clinical Pathway



Specialised clinics can identify the exact root cause—whether male or female—and offer targeted corrective therapies or Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART).

KEY TAKEAWAY

Infertility can involve either partner. It requires precise medical evaluation at specialized clinics, not societal blame.

NEET Recall Check: Clinically, a couple is typically diagnosed with infertility if they are unable to produce children despite unprotected sexual cohabitation for at least:

Option A: 6 months

Option B: 1 year

Option C: 2 years



Option D: 5 years



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