

## **Glossary of terms related to the embryology and development of the reproductive system**

1. Sex differentiation – pre-natal formation of the internal and external genital organs
2. Sexual development – Post-natal physical changes induced by sex steroids
3. Puberty – Sexual development dependent on the maturation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis
4. Precocious puberty – Maturation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-gonadal axis at an age two standard deviations younger than expected for gender and ethnicity
5. Sexual precocity – Appearance of secondary sexual characteristics at an age two standard deviations younger than expected for gender and ethnicity irrespective of mechanism
6. Isosexual – Sexual development changes concordant with phenotypic sex
7. Contrasexual – Sexual development changes discordant with phenotypic sex
8. Thelarche – Development of breast tissue in females
9. Premature thelarche – Development of breast tissue at an age two standard deviations younger than expected for ethnicity
10. Isolated thelarche of infants and toddlers - Thelarche usually occurring between 6 months and three years of age, without other signs of puberty. Typically the bone age is not advanced
11. Pubarche – Appearance of pubic hair
12. Premature pubarche –Development of pubic hair at an age two standard deviations younger than expected for gender and ethnicity
13. Adrenarche - Maturation of adrenal zona reticularis with increased 17,20 lyase activity leading to increased production of adrenal androgens.
14. Premature adrenarche – Maturation of adrenal zona reticularis leading to increased production of adrenal androgens at an age two standard deviations younger than expected for gender and ethnicity
15. Gonadarche – Maturation of the gonads
16. Menarche – First menstrual period
17. Premature isolated menarche – Periodic vaginal bleeding without other signs of secondary sexual development
18. Spermarche – Onset of complete spermatogenesis with the appearance of spermatozoa in urine or ejaculate
19. Hirsutism – Excessive terminal hair that appears in a male pattern in women
20. Hypertrichosis – Excessive hair growth in a nonsexual pattern. It is not caused by excess androgen (although hyperandrogenemia may aggravate it)
21. Virilization – Development of male secondary sexual characteristics

22. Gynecomastia – Development of breast tissue in males during puberty
23. Prepubertal gynecomastia – Development of breast tissue in males before puberty, often asymmetrically