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nodes such as those behind the ears, under the jaw, and in the armpits and groin can become painful and swollen as our immune systems fight the infections in these nodes. The reproductive system facilitates the production of offspring. It includes, for example, the ovaries, uterus, mammary glands (breasts), penis, and testes. The reproductive system is not essential to individual survival, but it is essential for the survival of the species. After all, a species whose members couldn't reproduce would not last very long! In humans, there are two very different reproductive systems: the male system, which is primarily concerned with producing sperm and finding mates; and the female system, which must prepare for pregnancy, childbirth, and baby care for reproduction to be successful. The female reproductive system is a particularly fascinating study in the way body systems work together to ensure our survival. Throughout the course of a woman's menstrual cycle, her body uses four different hormones most of which are produced by her ovaries to decide when and whether her body should prepare for pregnancy. The reproductive system in females and males. The major effects of the reproductive hormones are on the reproductive organs themselves, which must bring eggs for maturity and prepare uterine lining, rich in blood vessels, to nurture a possible embryo. However, effects are also seen in other organ systems. As the menstrual cycle progresses, the hormones may alter the body temperature, blood flow, and even the appetite and attraction to the opposite sex, to ensure that all the right resources are in place at the right time for reproduction to proceed. Women in some parts of the world have been known to develop bizarre eating habits due to the demands of their reproductive cycle. In areas with poor nutrition, for example, the monthly shedding of the blood-rich uterine lining can cause deficiencies of the minerals found in the blood. As a result, women in these areas may actually eat clay from the ground to ensure these minerals are replenished! We may not see such clear examples of our body systems interacting on a daily basis, but the organs and tissues that make up our body systems are always communicating, and working together, to keep us and our species alive and healthy. *Bibliography* Bartsch, R. P., Liu, K. L., Bashan, A., & Ivanov, P. C. (2015). *Network physiology: How organ systems dynamically interact*. PLoS ONE, 10(11). R. L., Vogl, W., & Mitchell, A. W. M. (2015). *Grays Clinical Anatomy*. In *Grays Anatomy for Students*. S. (2017). Guyton and Hall: *Textbook of Medical Physiology*. Surgical Neurology International. *Organ system* is a group of organs that work together to perform a certain function in an organism's body. 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