MALE INFERTILITY FACTORS

40-50% of all infertility is male factor infertility. Evaluation for male infertility is best initiated with a semen analysis. This allows the doctor to examine the count, motility and morphology of the sperm:

- **Sperm count** - A low sperm count is fewer than 20 million per milliliter of ejaculate.
- **Motility** - Low sperm motility (movement) may reduce the chances of conception, especially when paired with low sperm count. In a normal semen sample, at least half of the sperm have normal forward movement.
- **Morphology** - Sperm that do not have normal morphology (shape) are often unable to swim effectively or penetrate an egg.

The sample is most often collected by masturbation at home or alternatively in a private, comfortable room in the fertility center. Male cultures can be done on the semen to assure the absence of organisms that can affect fertility. If the semen analysis shows clumping of sperm (agglutination), an anti-sperm antibody test may also be ordered to evaluate for a potential immune mediated fertility problem.