

The Histology of Female Genital System

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<http://medical-histology.blogspot.com>

HISTOLOGY OF FEMALE GENITAL SYSTEM

● Ovaries

● Menstrual Cycle

● Follicle Growth

● Vagina

● Oviducts

● Placenta

● Uterus

● Breast

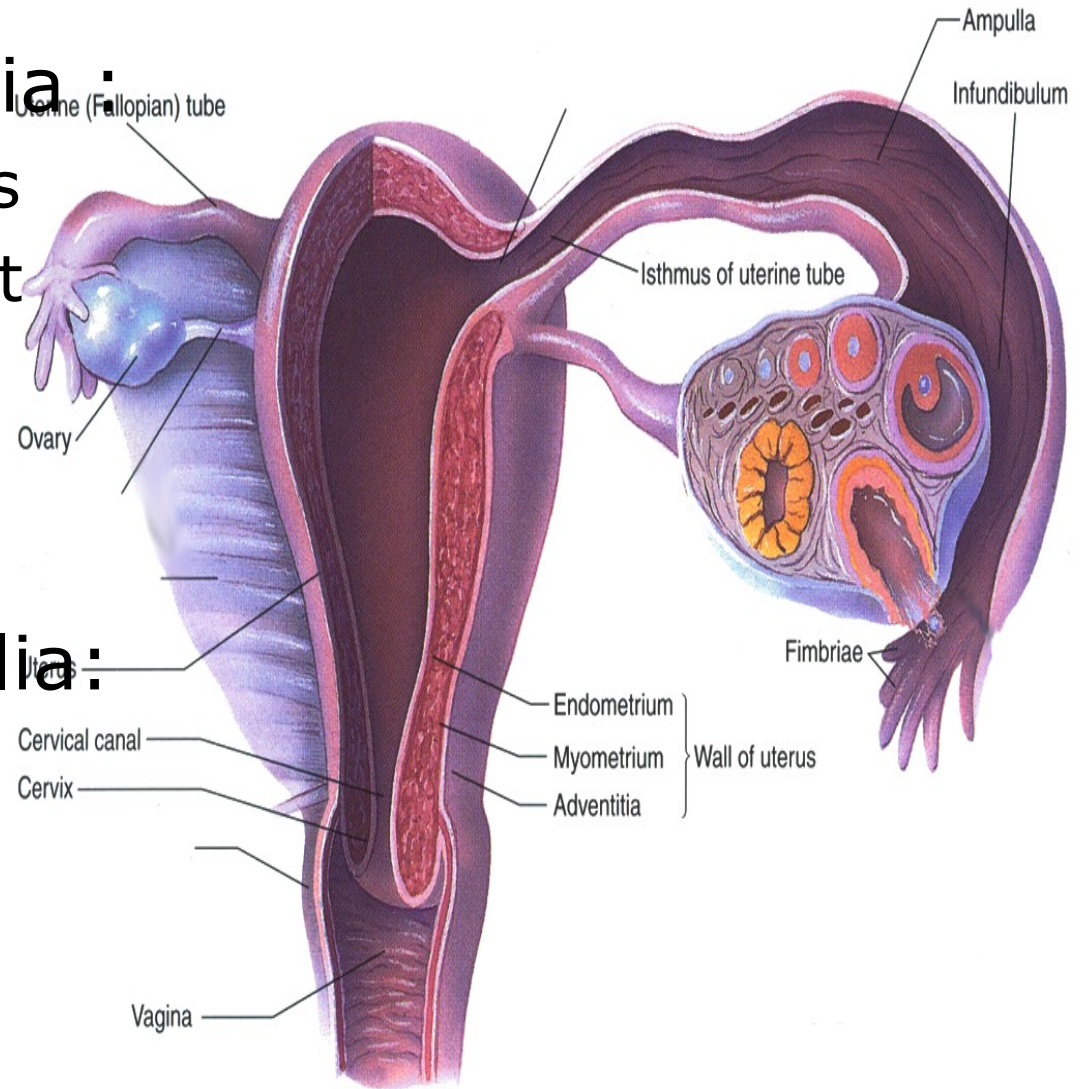
Overview

- **Internal Genitalia :**

- Paired of Ovaries
- Paired of Oviduct
- Uterus
- Vagina

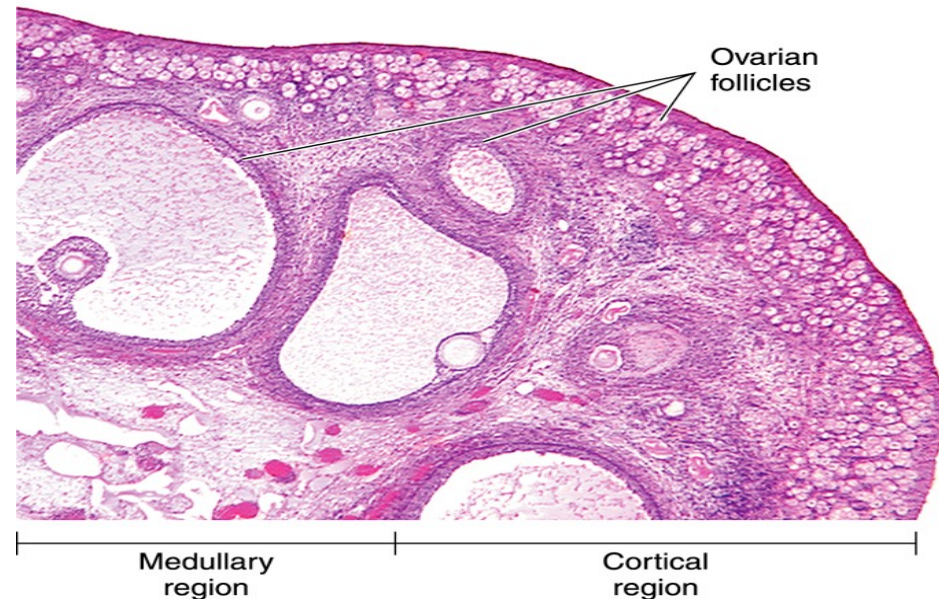
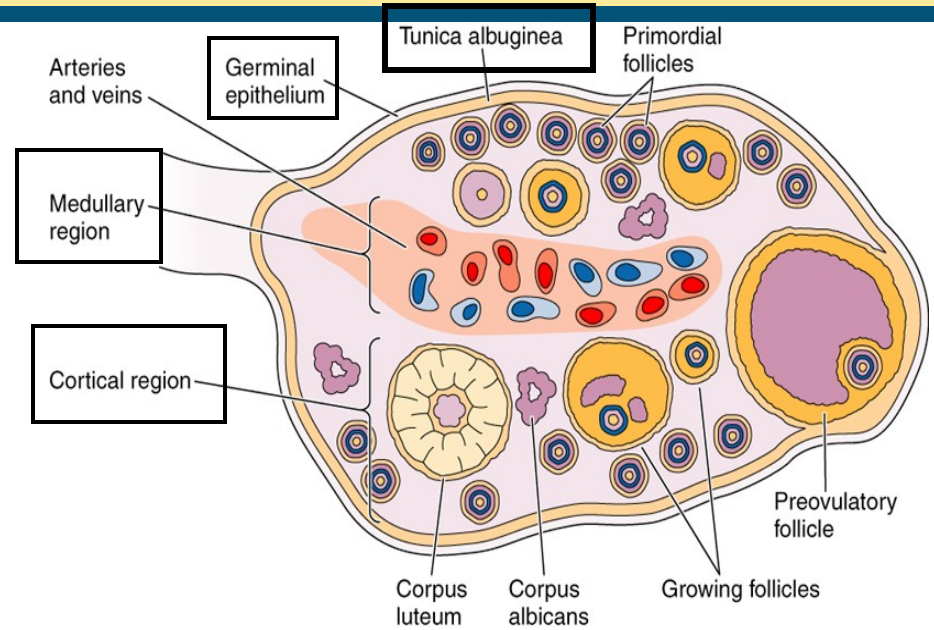
- **External Genitalia:**

- Labia Majora
- Labia Minora
- Clitoris



OVARIES

- ✓ GERMINAL EPITH.
 - ✓ Simple Sq.-cuboid Epith.
- ✓ TUNICA ALBUGINEA
 - ✓ Dense connective tissue → whitish color
- CORTEX
 - Stroma that houses **ovarian follicles** in various stages of development
- MEDULLA
 - Loose C. Tissue containing vascular bed and nervous



OVARIAN CYCLE

Three phases of ovarian cycle :

- **Follicular phase**

- Development of primordial F. → Mature F.
- *Follicular phase of endometrium*

- **Ovulatory phase**

- Release of oocyte from mature F. and capture by oviducts

- **Luteal phase**

- Residual follicular cell folds and becomes part of Corpus Luteum (C.L.)
- *Secretion/luteal phase of endometrium*

FOLLICULAR GROWTH (Follicular phase)

WHAT IS OVARIAN FOLLICLES? :

- An oocyte
- Follicular/ granulosa cells

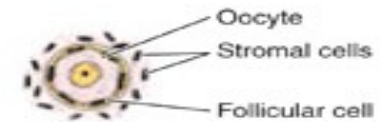
PRIMORDIAL F.
(formed during fetal life)

Follicular
Growth

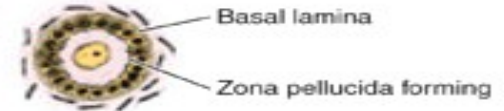
Modification of :

- Oocyte
- Granulosa cells
- Stromal fibroblast

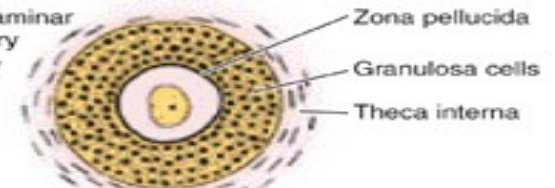
Primordial follicle



Unilaminar primary follicle

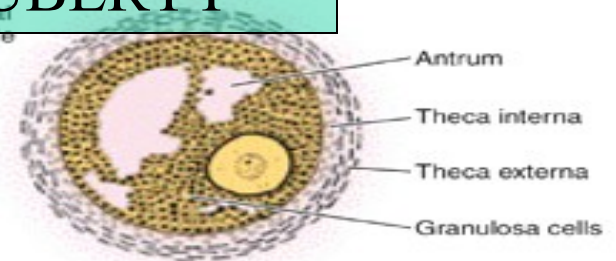


Multilaminar primary follicle

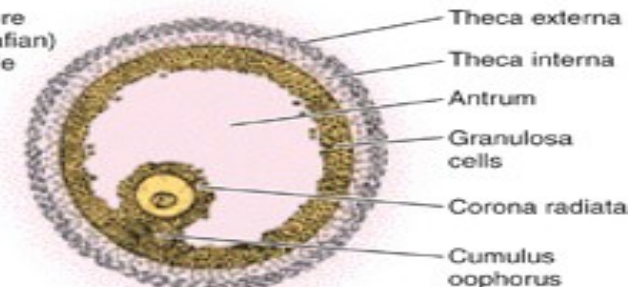


ANTRAL FOLLICLE

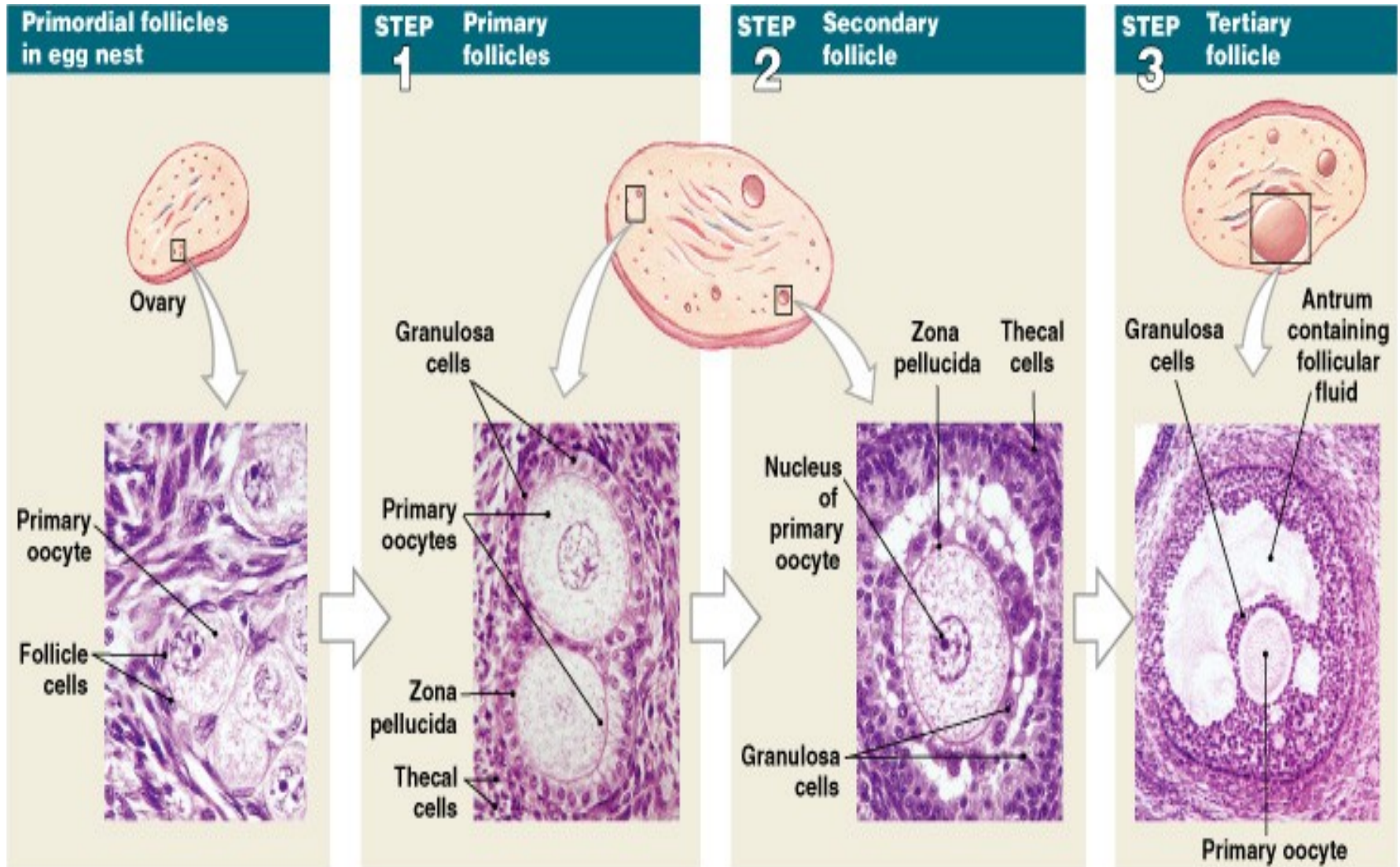
Antral follicle



Mature (graafian) follicle



FOLLICULAR GROWTH (Follicular phase)



FOLLICULAR GROWTH (Follicular phase)

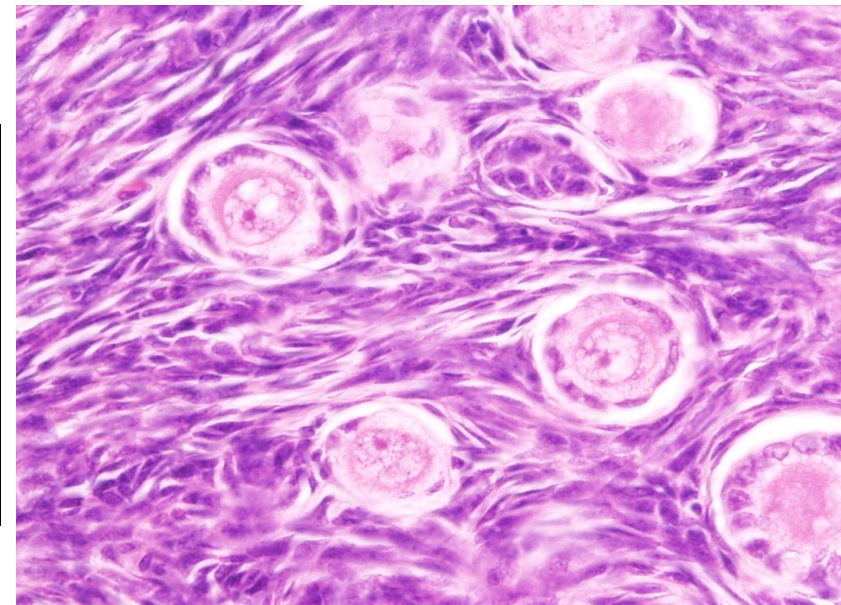
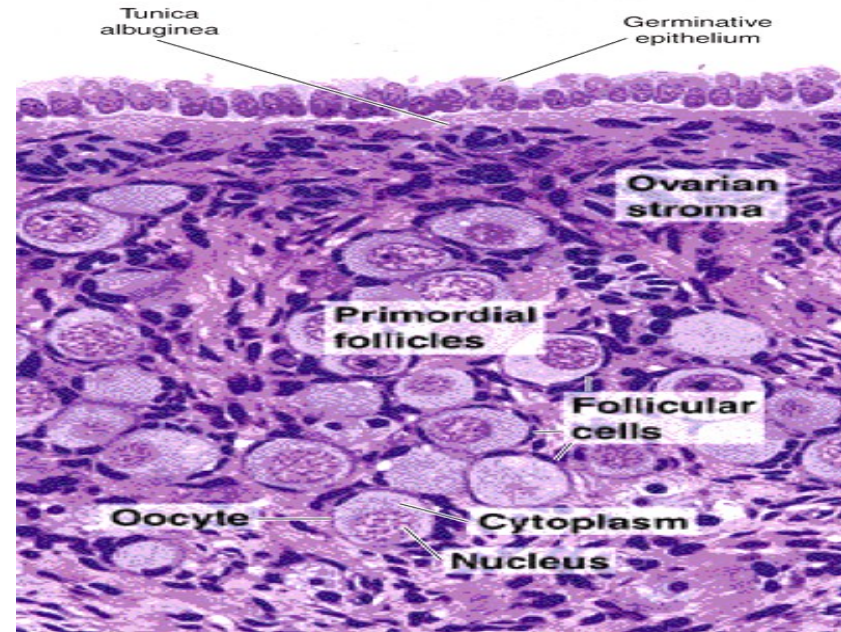
1. PRIMORDIAL FOLLICLE :

A. primary oocyte

- Arrested in prophase stage of MI
- $\sim 25 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter

B. follicular cells

- single layer of flattened cells
- Attach by desmosomes



Start at puberty, small groups of primordial F. stimulated by FSH begins the follicular growth \rightarrow primary F. \rightarrow Secondary F. \rightarrow Graafian F.

FOLLICULAR GROWTH (Follicular phase)

2. PRIMARY FOLLICLE

B. primary oocyte

- growth to 125-150 μm diam.

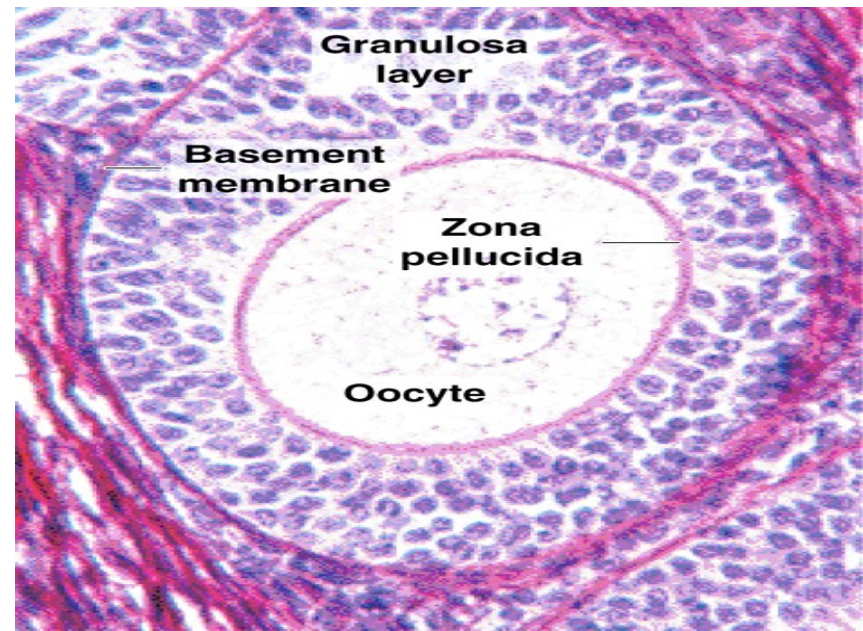
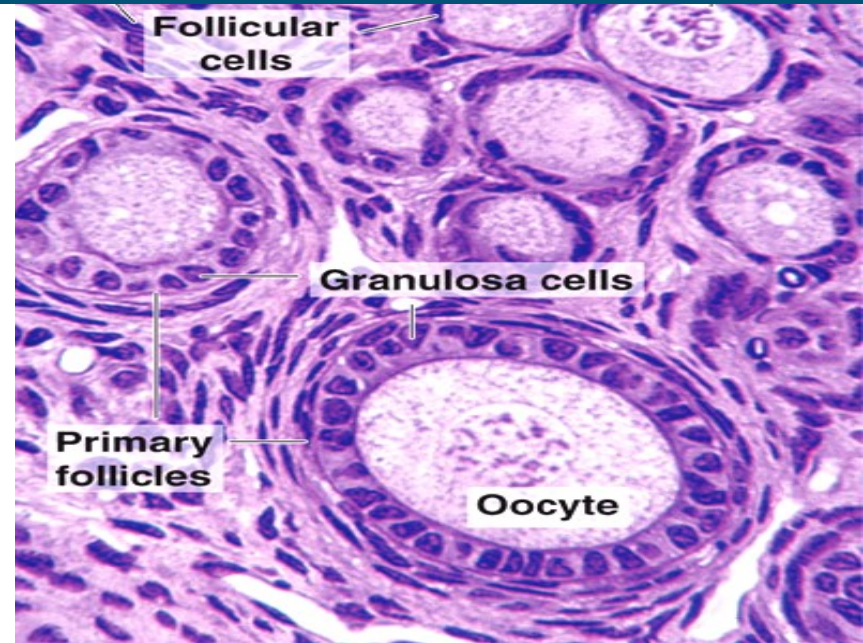
C. follicular cells

- cuboidal cells
- 1 to many layers

→ Zona pellucida separate oocyte from F.C

C. Stromal cells

- Theca interna
- Theca externa



FOLLICULAR GROWTH (Follicular phase)

3. SECONDARY FOLLICLE

B. primary oocyte

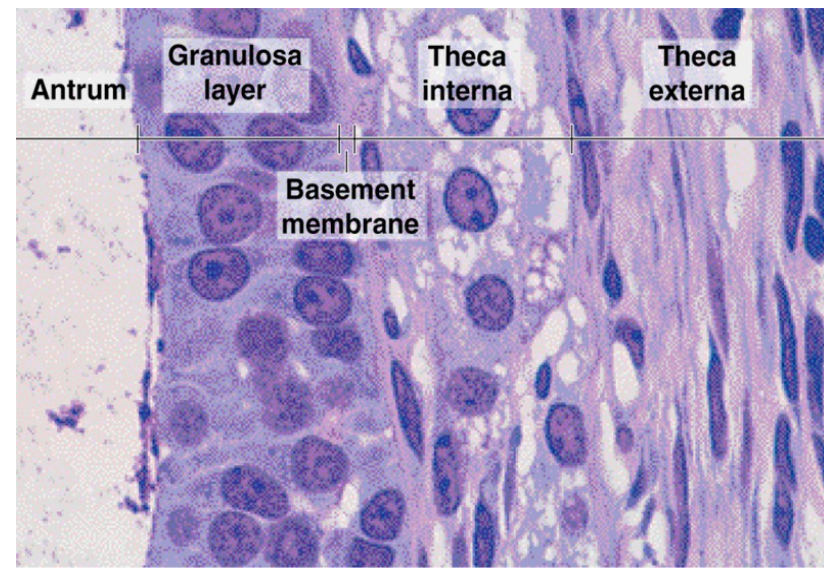
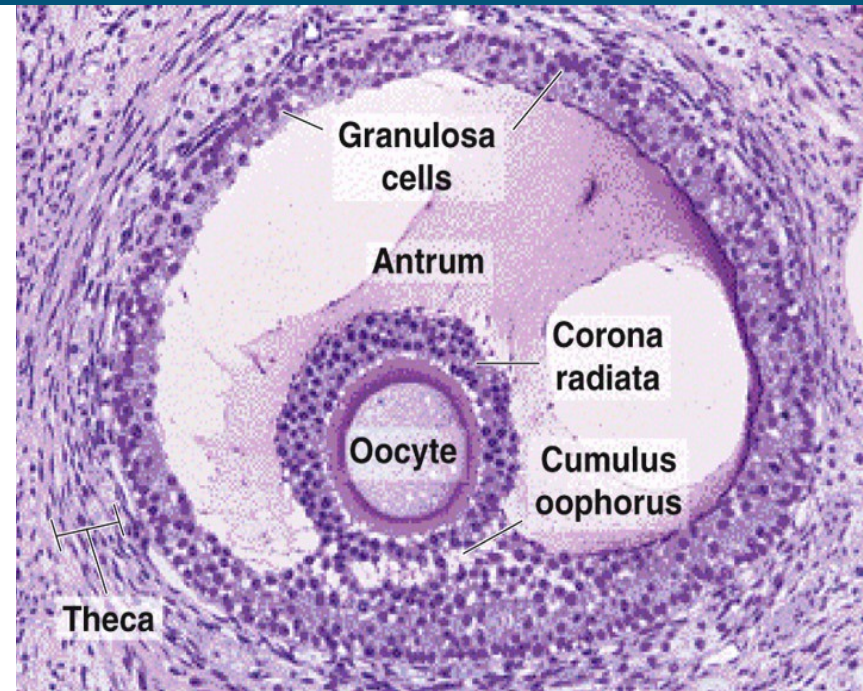
- 125-150 μm diam.

C. follicular cells

- cuboidal cells, many layers
- **Liquor folliculi** \rightarrow **Antrum**
- Cumulus oophorus
- Corona radiata

C. Stromal cells

- Theca interna \sim steroid producing cells
- Theca externa

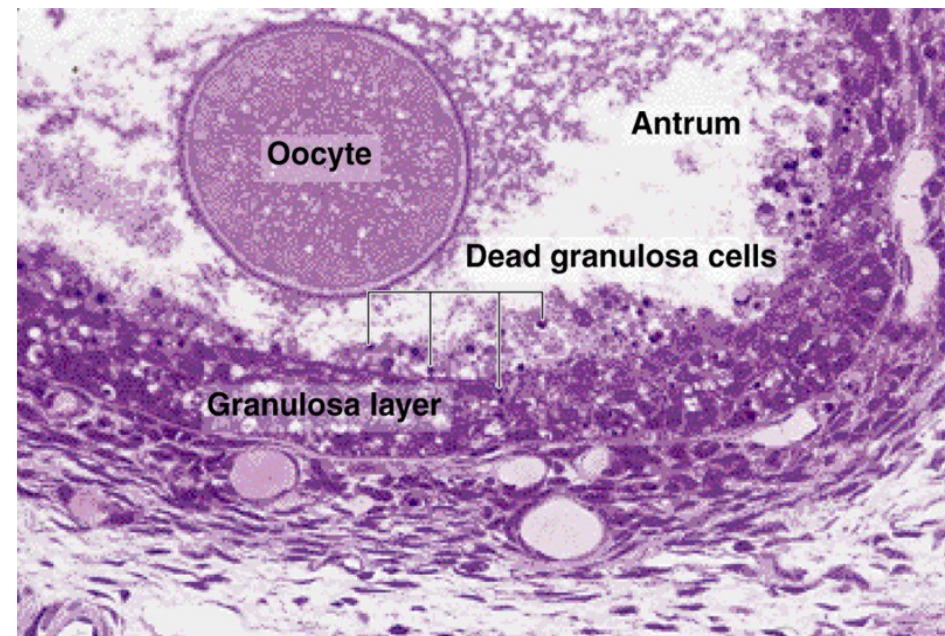
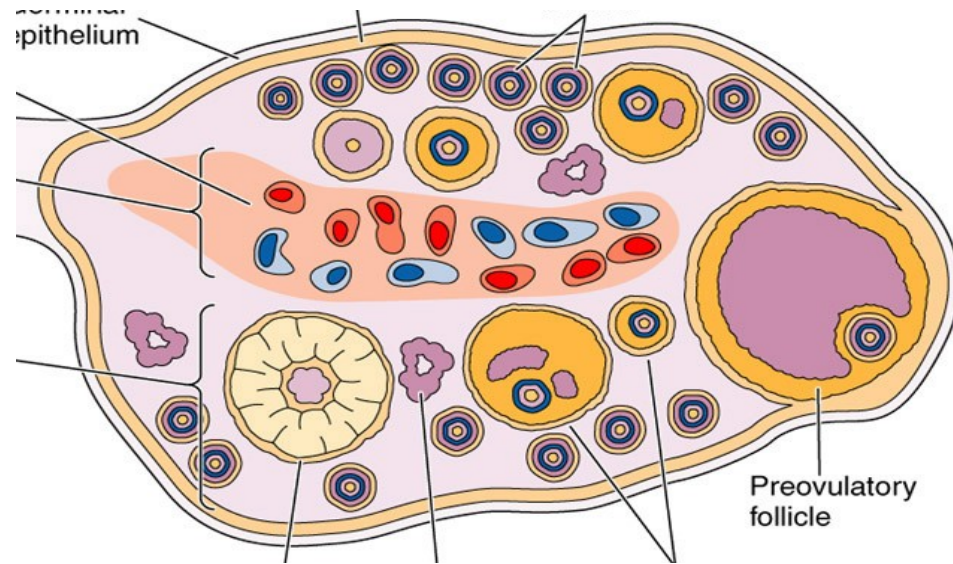


FOLLICULAR GROWTH (Follicular phase)

4. GRAAFIAN FOLLICLE

- Primary oocyte
- Follicular cells
 - Continued growth → 2.5 cm in diameter
 - Continues formation of liquor folliculi → oocyte floating

During each menstrual cycle,
Only one follicle growth
Becomes Dominant F.
The other enter ATRESIA



OVARIAN CYCLE

Three phases of ovarian cycle :

- **Follicular phase**

- Development of primordial F. → Mature F.

- **Ovulatory phase**

- Release of oocyte from mature F. and capture by oviducts

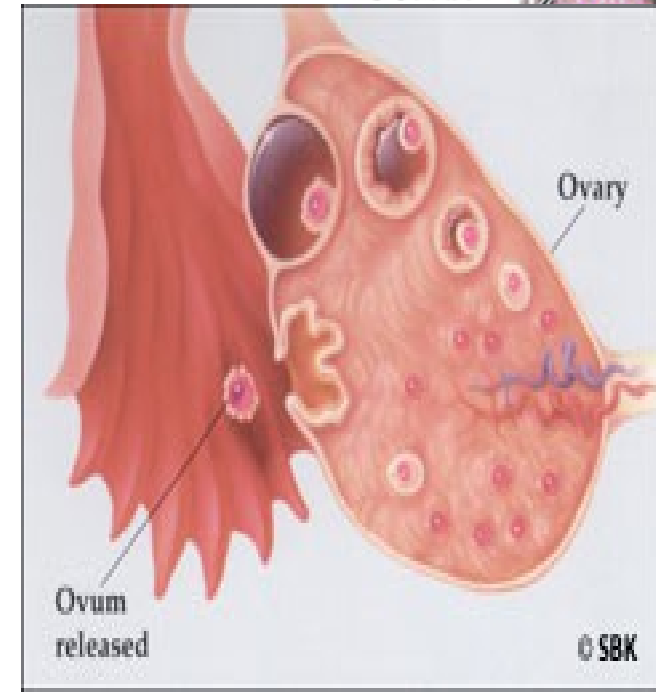
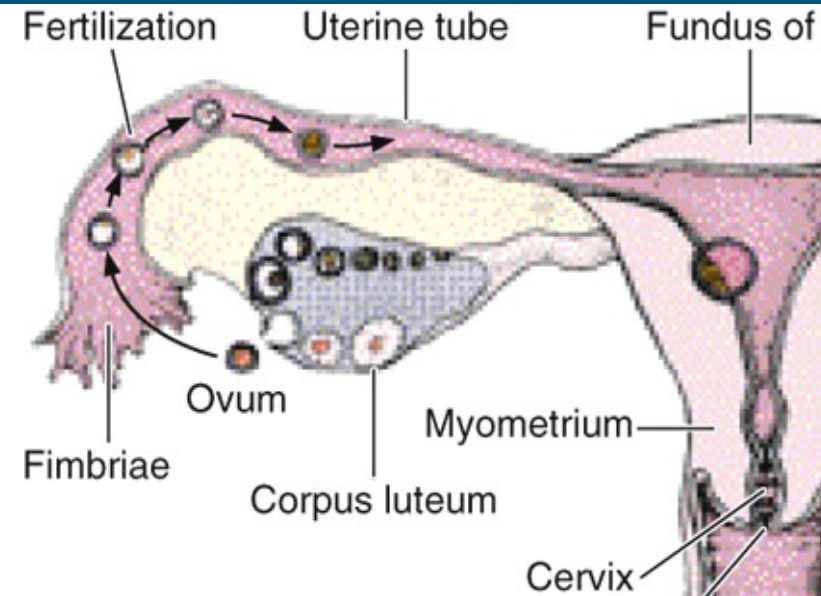
- **Luteal phase**

- Residual follicular cell folds and becomes part of Corpus Luteum (C.L.)

OVULATION PHASE

Day 14 of menstrual Cycle

- LH surge
- Rupture the wall of G.F.
 - PG, Histamine, Collagenases
 - Hyaluronic acid
- Complete the 1st meiosis
- Release of **secondary oocyte** (arrest in metaphase II) with corona radiata
- Received the oocyte by fimbriae



fertilization usually in oviduct
male & female pronuclei fuse = zygote

OVARIAN CYCLE

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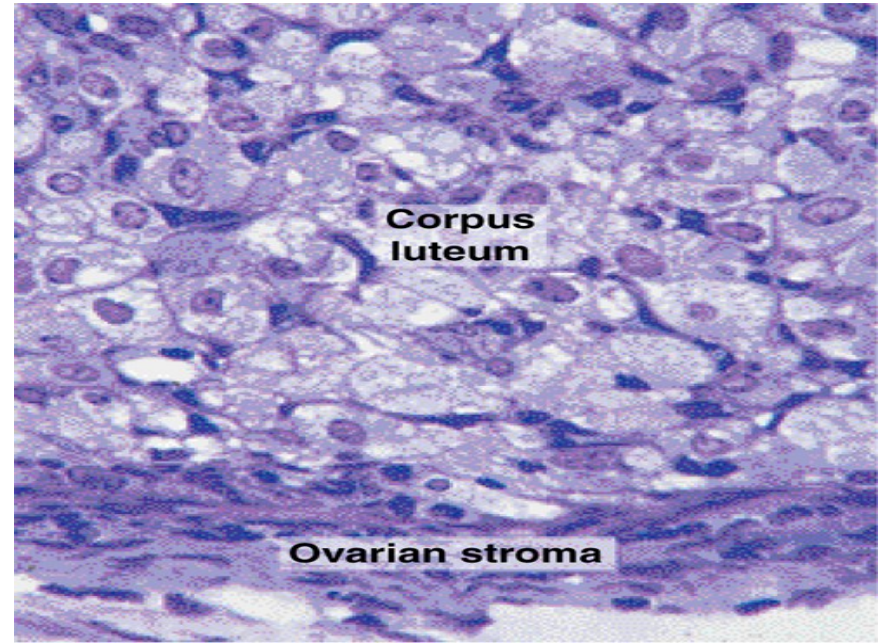
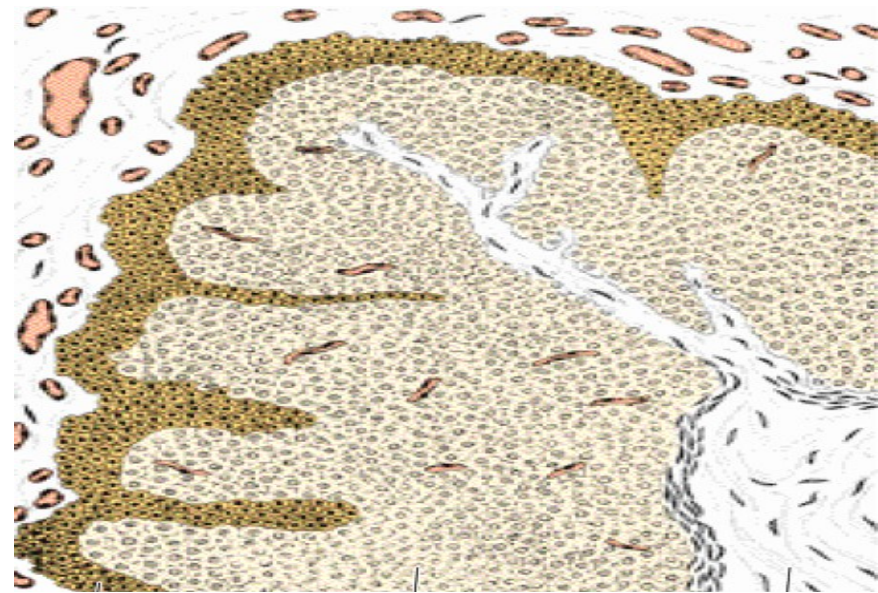
- **Luteal phase**

- Residual follicular cell folds and becomes part of Corpus Luteum (C.L.)

CORPUS LUTEUM/C.L. (LUTEAL PHASE)

AFTER OVULATION :

- remainder of graafian follicle collapse & folded
- Blood flow into follicular cavity → clot + invaded by C.T. → phagocytes → central part C.L.
- Granulosa cell → granulosa-lutein cells
- Theca interna cells → theca-lutein cells
- C.L produce estrogen & progesteron

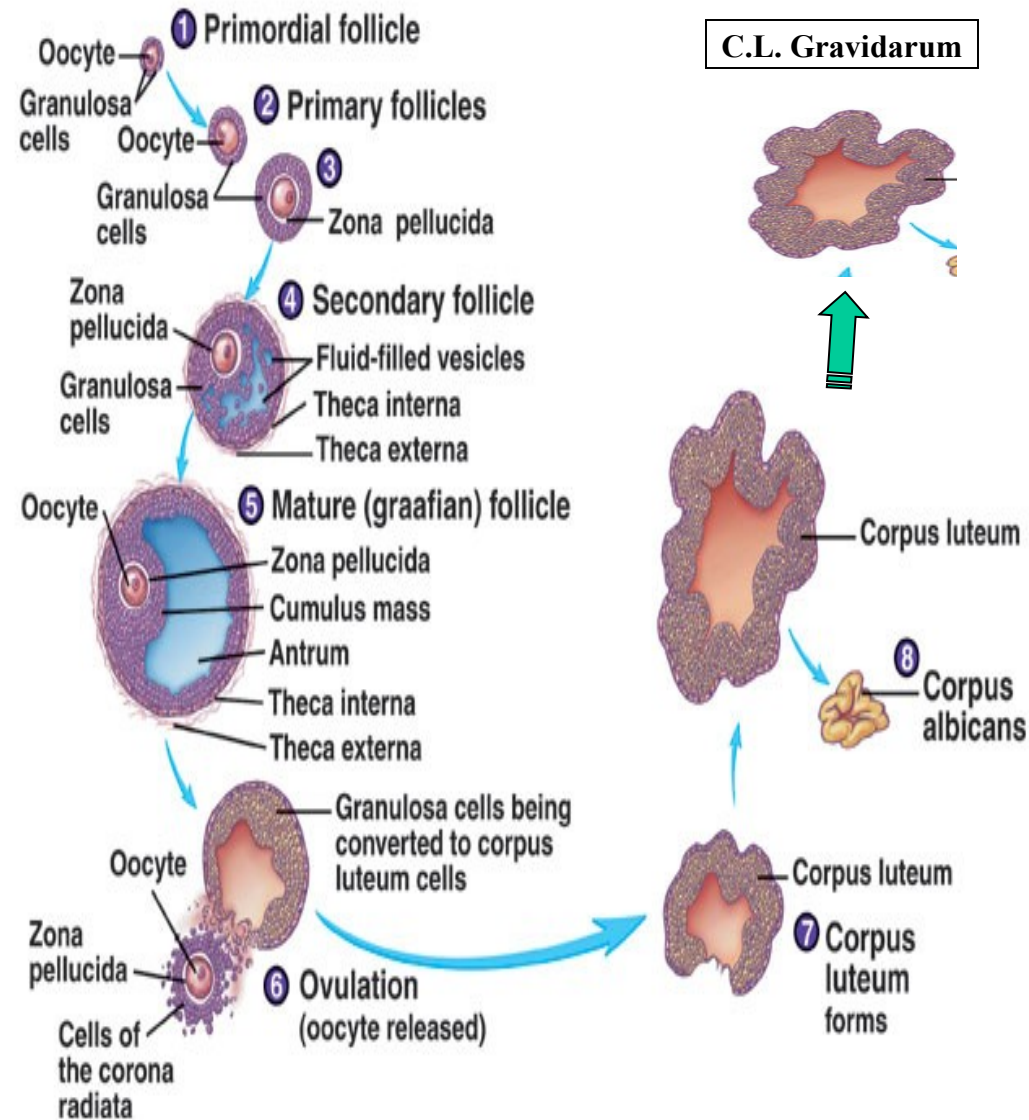


FATE OF CORPUS LUTEUM ??

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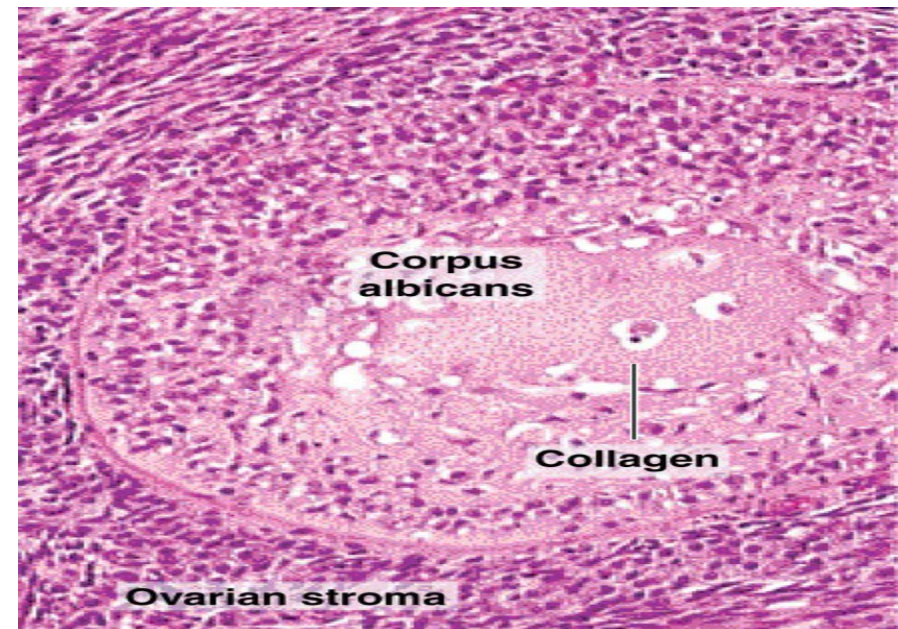
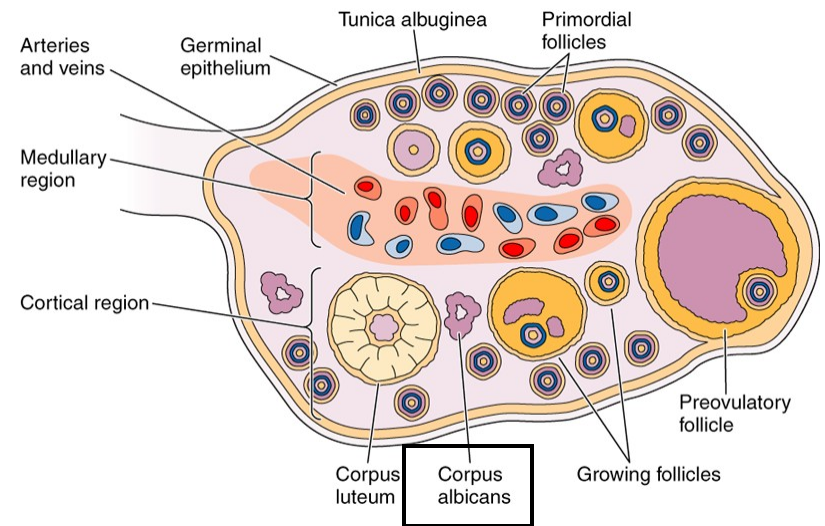
DEPEND ON WHETHER PREGNANCY IS ESTABLISHED OR NOT :

- If the pregnancy does not occur → C.L. degenerate → **CORPUS ALBICANS**
- If pregnancy occurs → hCG maintains C.L → C.L. of pregnancy → secrete hormone → maintain pregnancy



CORPUS ALBICANS

- C.L of menstruation is invaded by fibroblasts → fibrotic.
- Its remnant undergo luteolysis
- Fibrous connective tissue → corpus albicans
- Persist as the scar on the surface of ovary



OVIDUCTS (Fallopian Tubes)

The walls composed of :

- **Mucosa layer**

- Lines by simple column. Epith.
- Lamina propia
- Charaterized by longitudinal folds

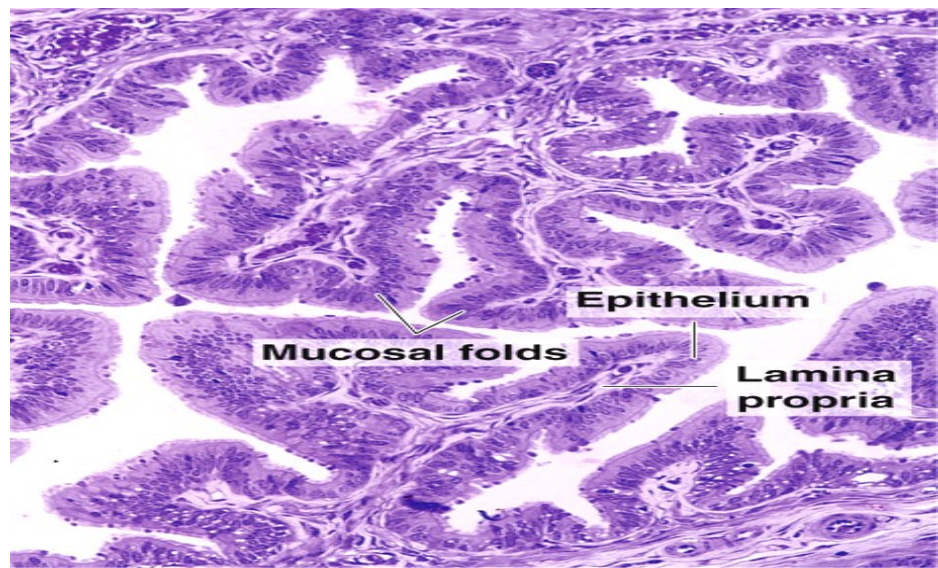
- **Muscularis layer**

- Inner circular and outer longitudinal layers of smooth muscle

- **Serosa layer**

- Simple sq. epithelium

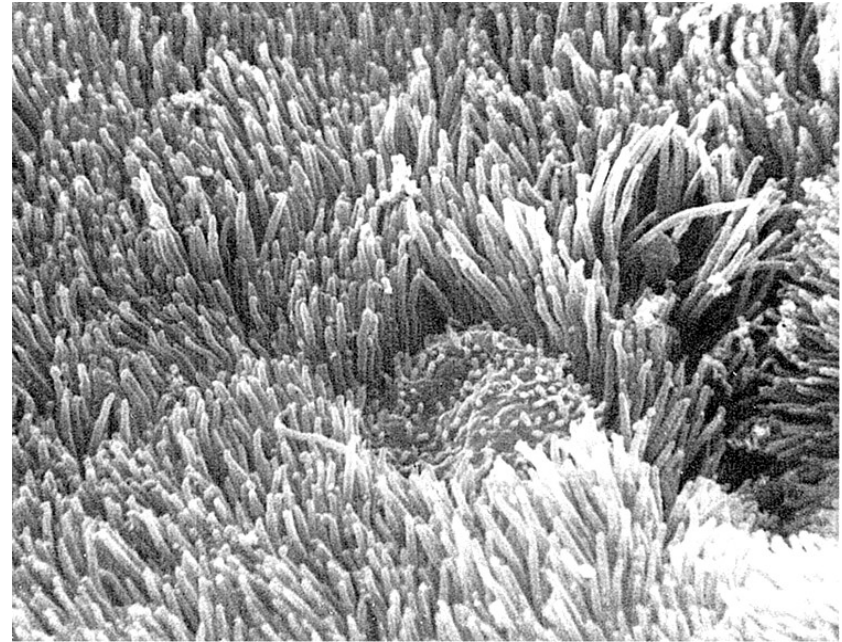
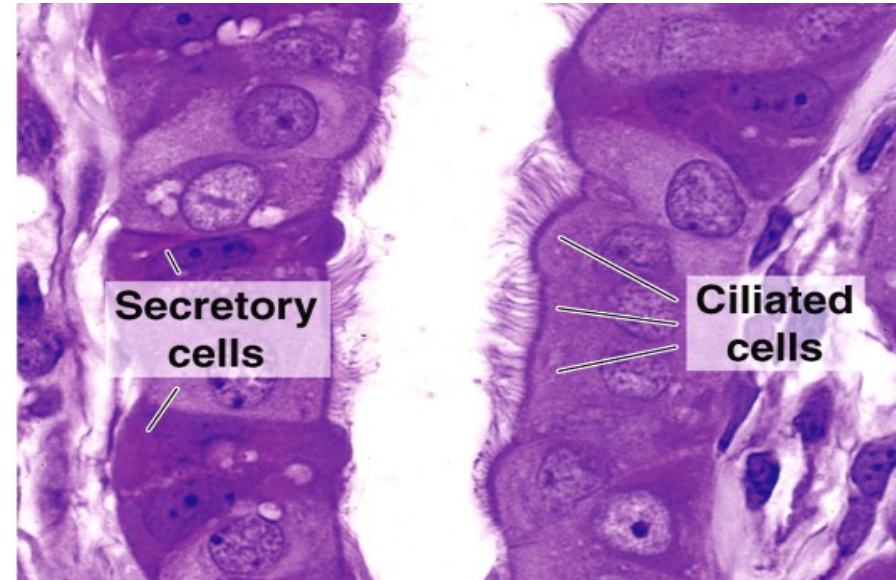
The oviducts is the site of fertilization & early cleavage of the zygote



Oviducts (Fallopian Tubes)

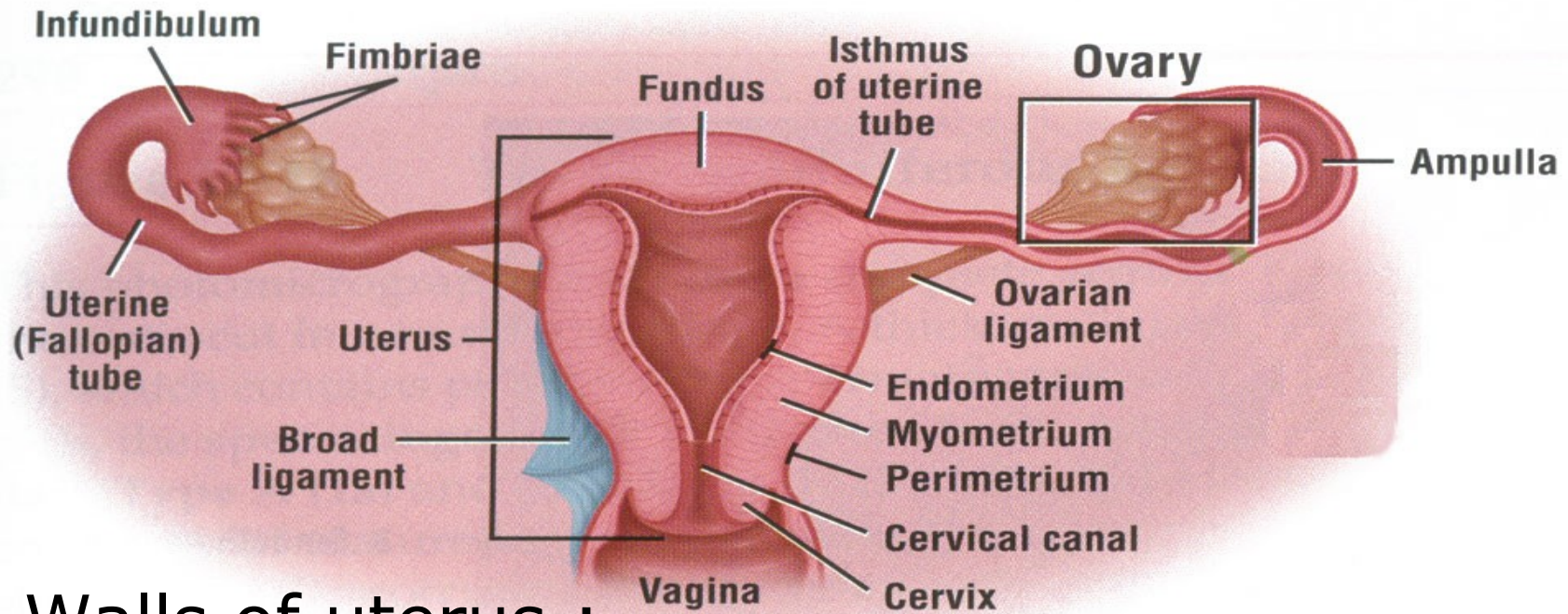
Two types epith. Cell :

- Non ciliated peg cells
 - No cilia
 - Secretory :
 - Nutritive & protective for oocyte
 - capacitation of sperm.
- Ciliated cells
 - Cilia beat toward the uterus



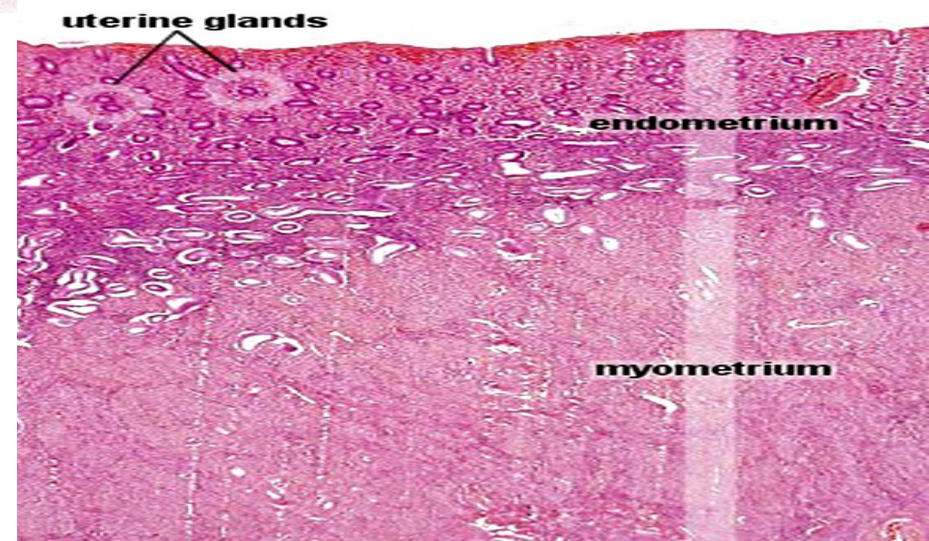
Peristaltic contraction +
ciliary activity + fluid → move oocyte/
zygote toward the uterus

UTERUS



The Walls of uterus :

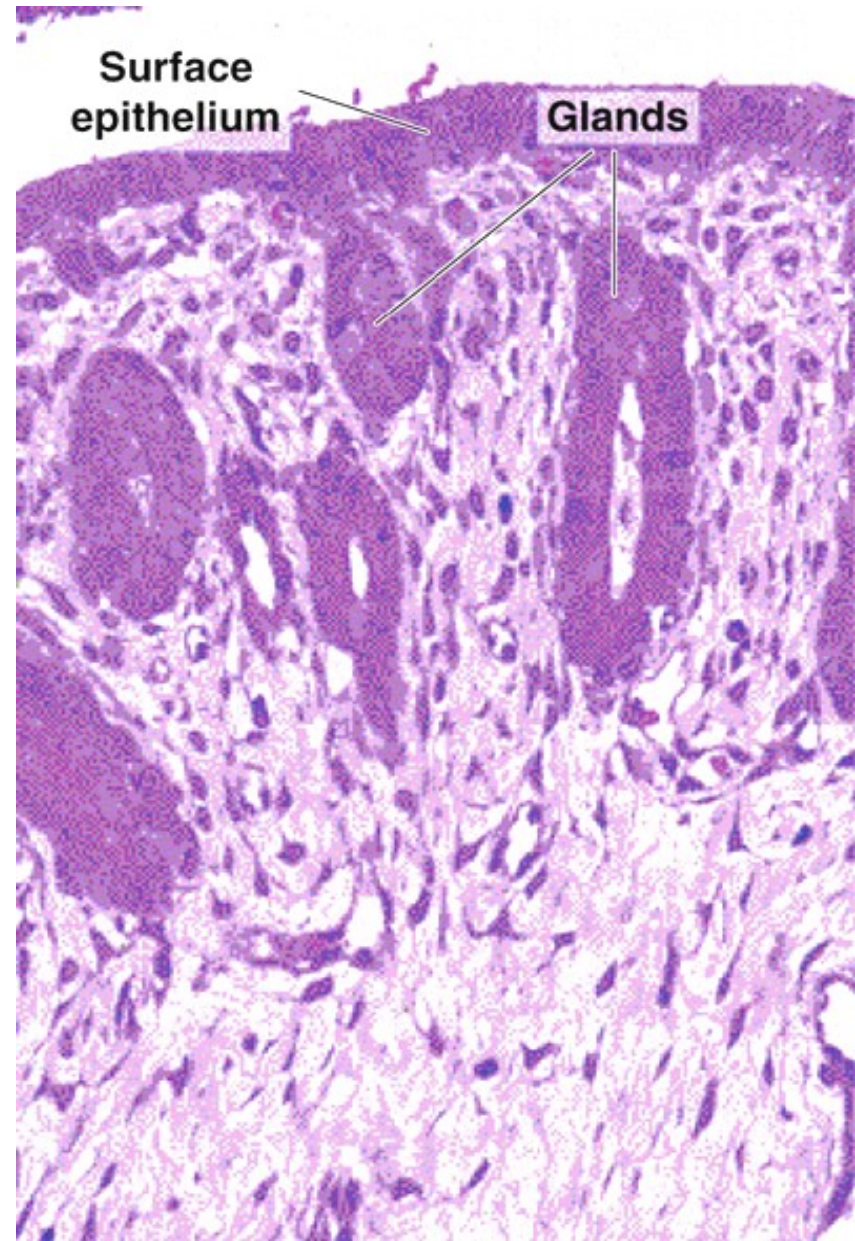
- Endometrium
- Myometrium
- Serosa/adventitia



Uterus (Endometrium)

- Epithelium :
 - simple columnar epith.
 - ciliated cells
 - secretory cells
- lamina propria
 - loose CT, rich in fibroblast, reticular fiber
 - uterine glands (simple tubular)

The microscopic structure of
The endometrium change during
Menstrual cycle



Uterus (Endometrium)

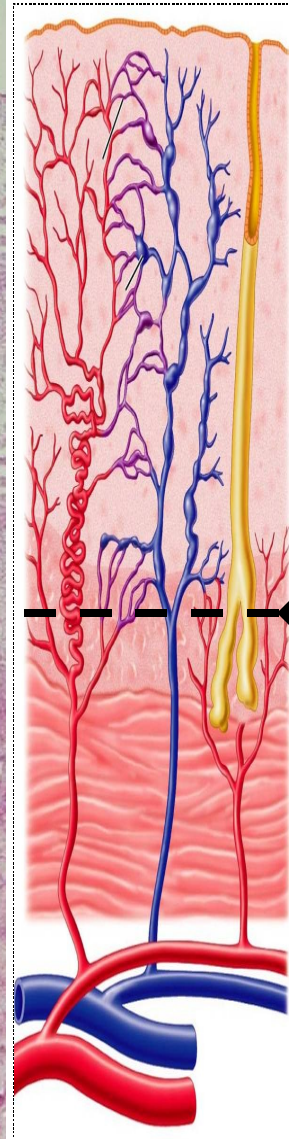
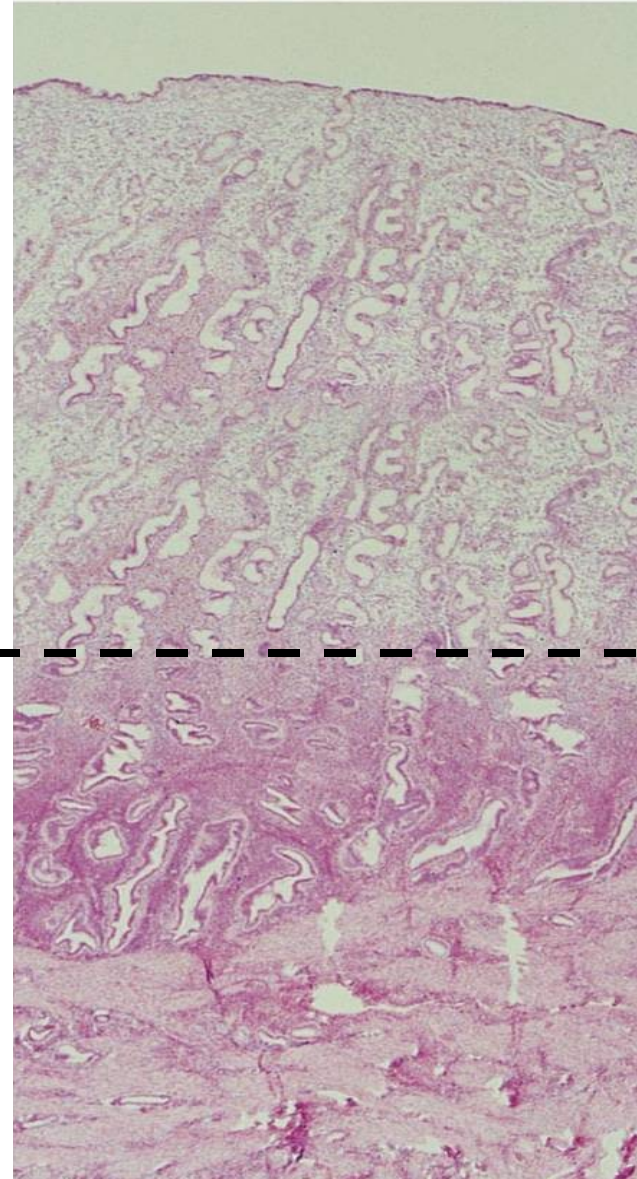
Two layers (zone) :

- **Functionalis**

- Thick, superficial (surface epith., lam. prop., & gland)
- Rich capillary network (coiled arteries)
- **Sloughed at menstruation**

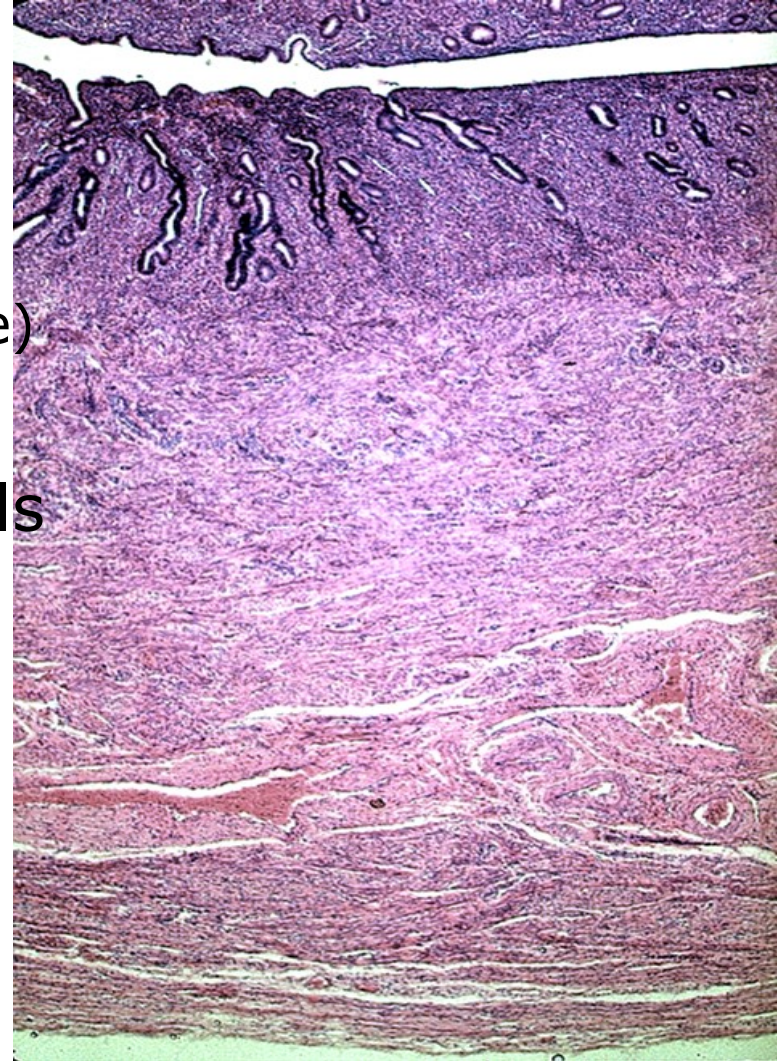
- **Basalis**

- Deep, narrow (lam. prop., & gland)
- straight arteries
- **Regenerate functionalis layer each menstrual cycle**



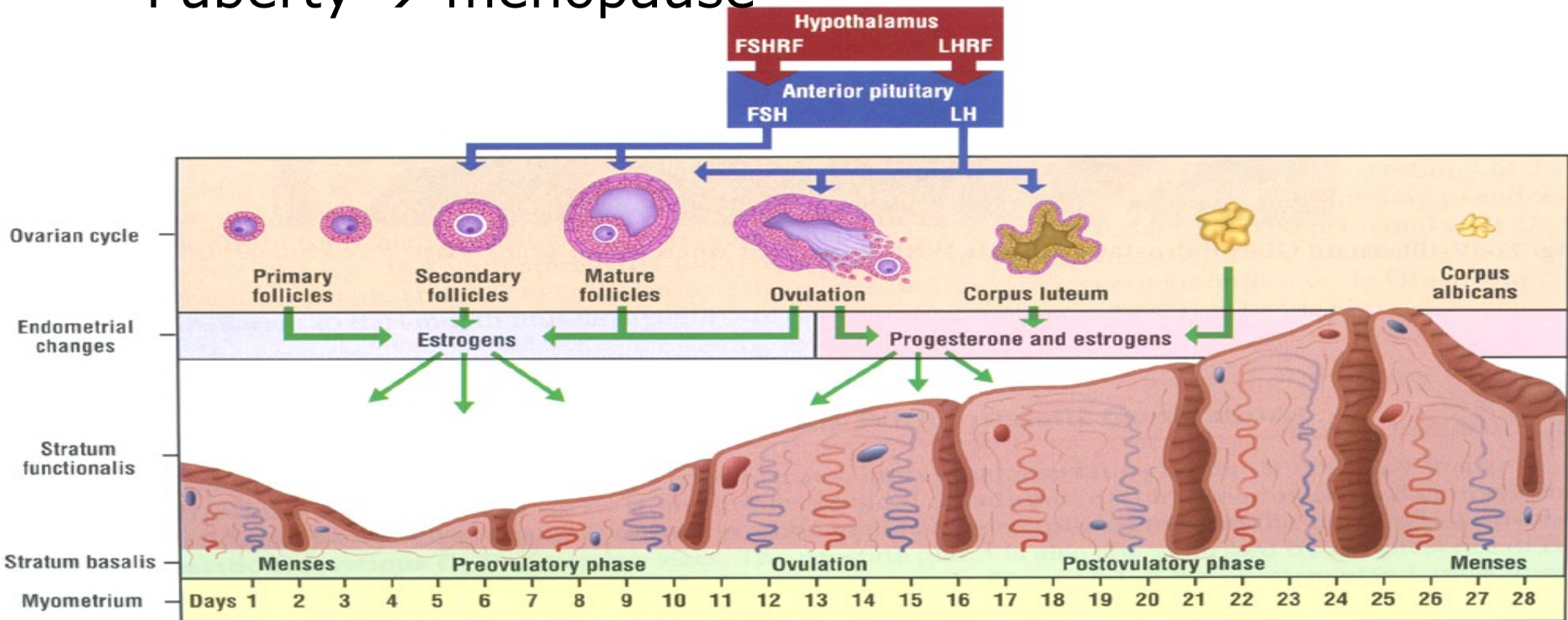
Uterus (Myometrium)

- ✓ Thickest layer of uterus
- ✓ Composed of three layers of smooth muscle:
 - inner longitudinal
 - middle circular (strat. Vasculature)
 - outer longitudinal
- ✓ The size & number of muscle cells are related to estrogen levels
- ✓ Pregnancy : hyperplasia & hypertrophy



Menstrual Cycle

- Under stimulus of estr. & progest. endometrium undergo cyclic structure modification
→ Proliferatif → secretion → menstruation → proliferatif →
- Duration = 28 days
- Puberty → menopause

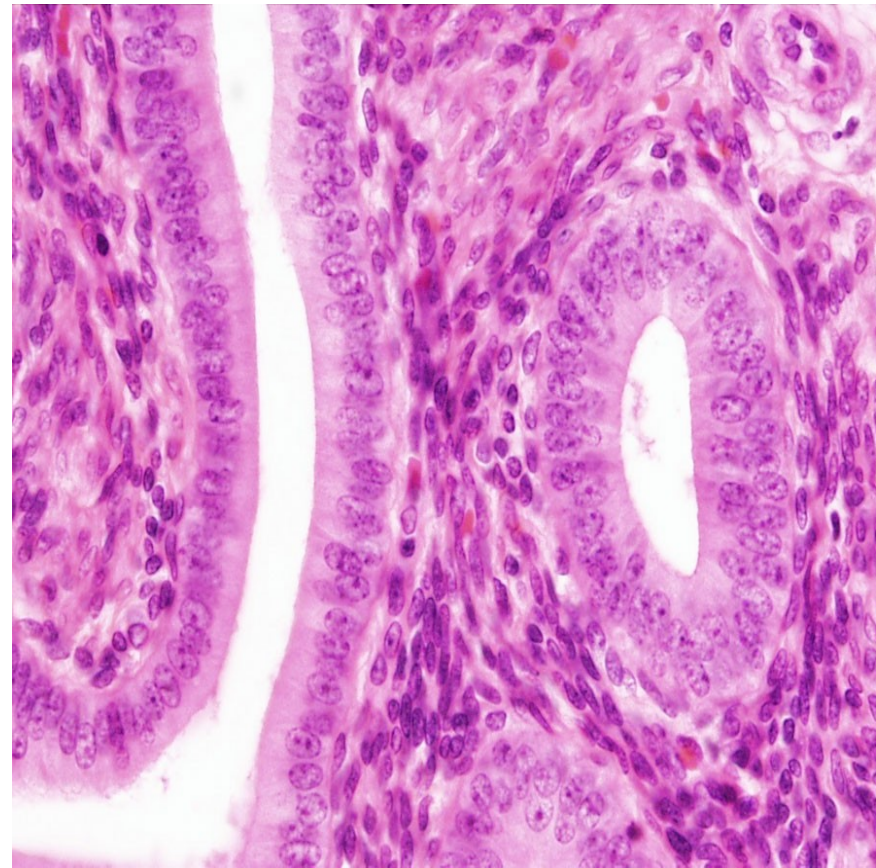
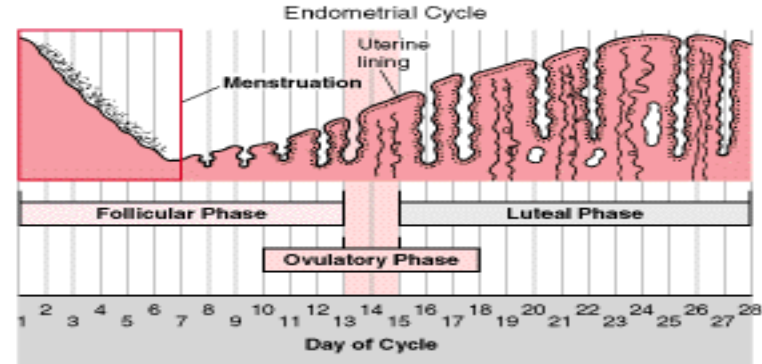


Proliferative/follicular phase (days 5-14)

- After menstrual phase
- Coincides with ovarian follicles development (estrog.)
- Regeneration of endometr.

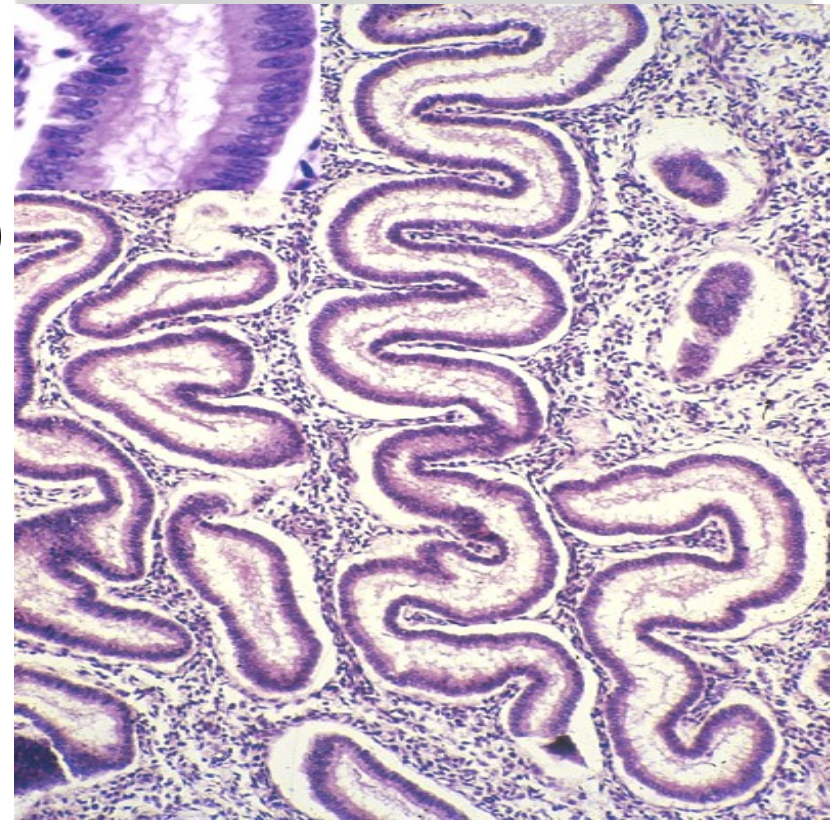
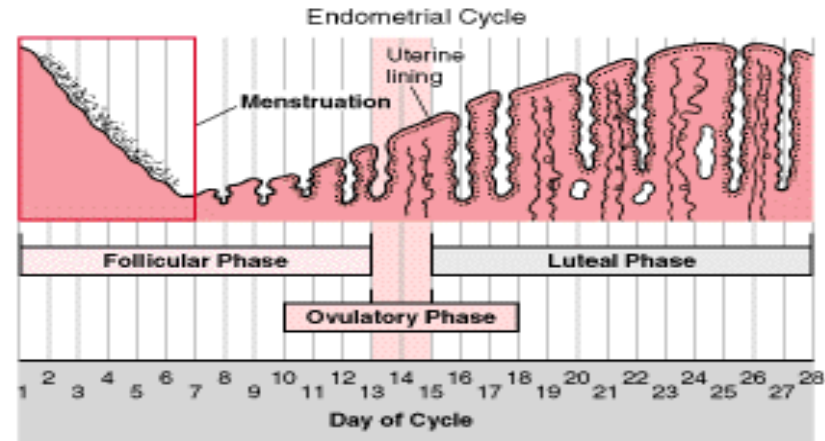
→ day 14, fully restored

- surface epithelium
- lamina propria
- coiled arteries
- uterine glands : simple columnar epithel, straight tubule, narrow lumens.



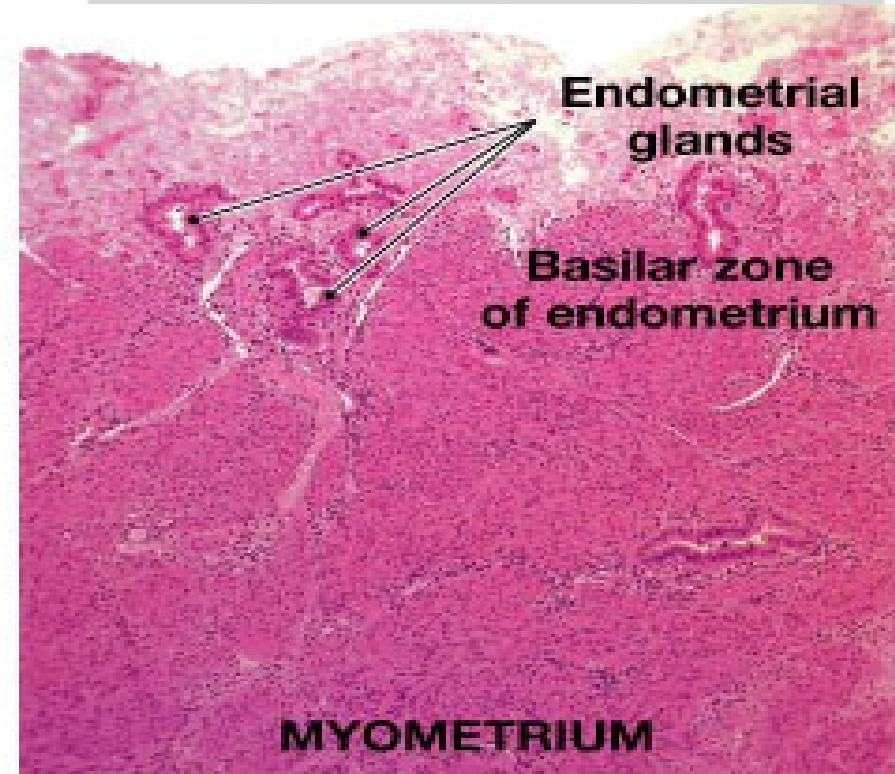
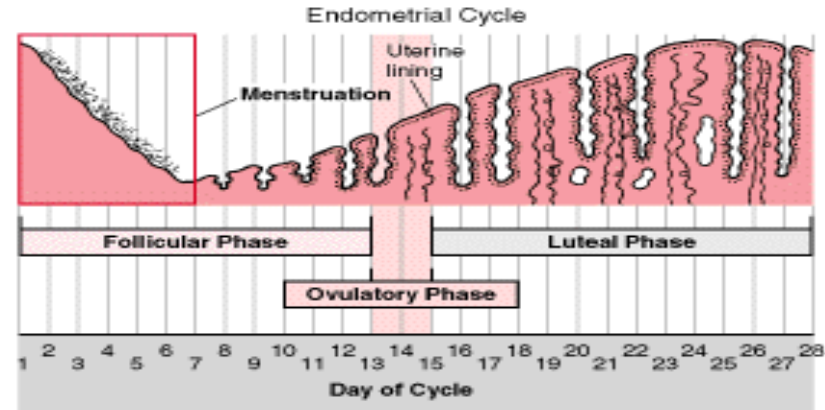
Secretory / Luteal phase (days 15-28)

- Begins after ovulation
- Depends on C.L. Secretions (progesterone)
- Uterine glands: coiled & branched, accumulation of glycogen → dilate the lumen
- Thickening of functionalis (edema and secretory product)
- Prepared to receive zygote



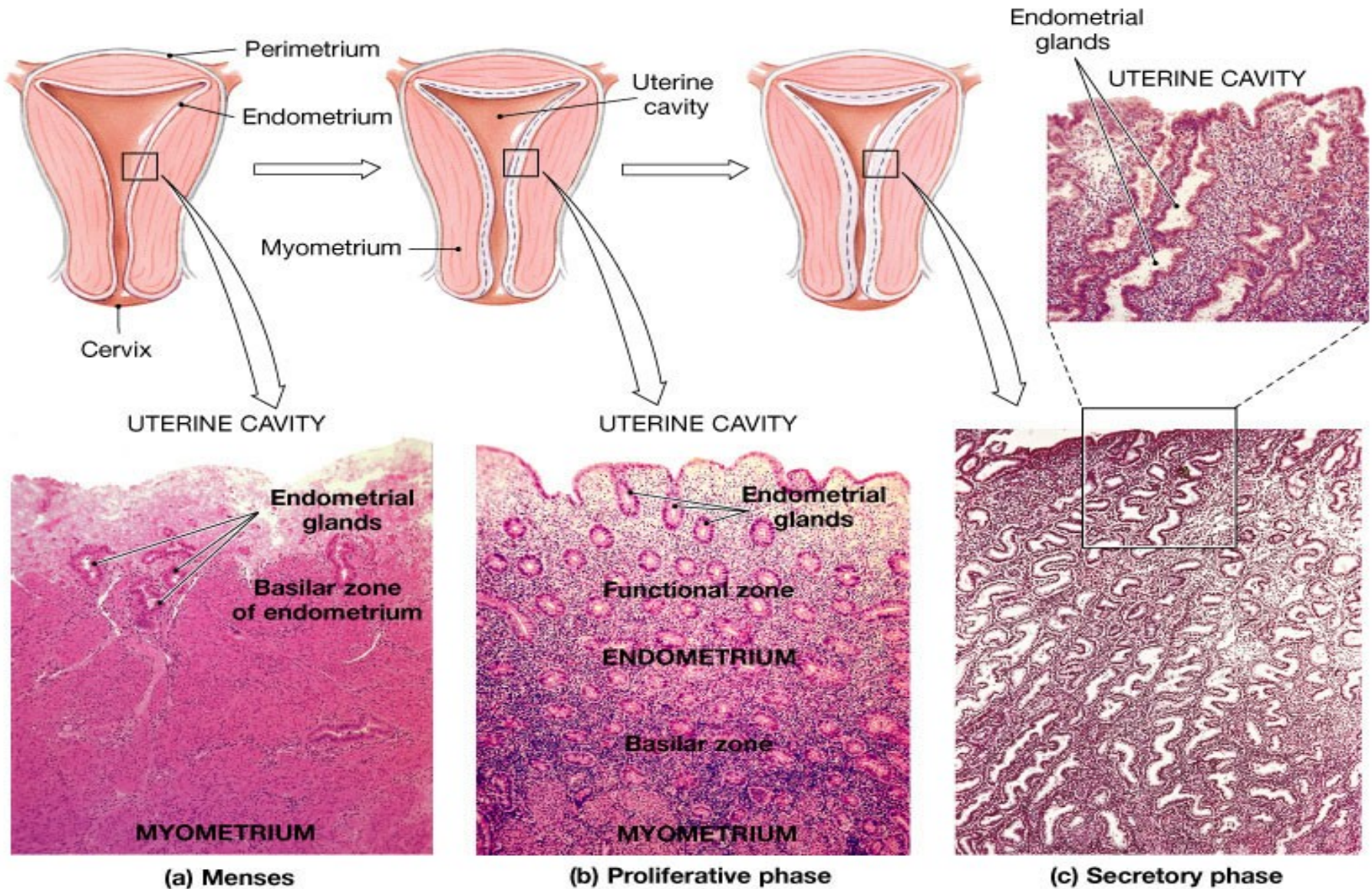
Menstrual phase (days 1-4)

- When no fertilization → C.L. degenerates → drop in progest. & est.
- coiled arteries constrict → ischemia & necrosis of Functional layer
- Rupture of arteries → hemorrhagic
- **Shedding of functional layer,**
- basal layer remain viable → restore functional layer



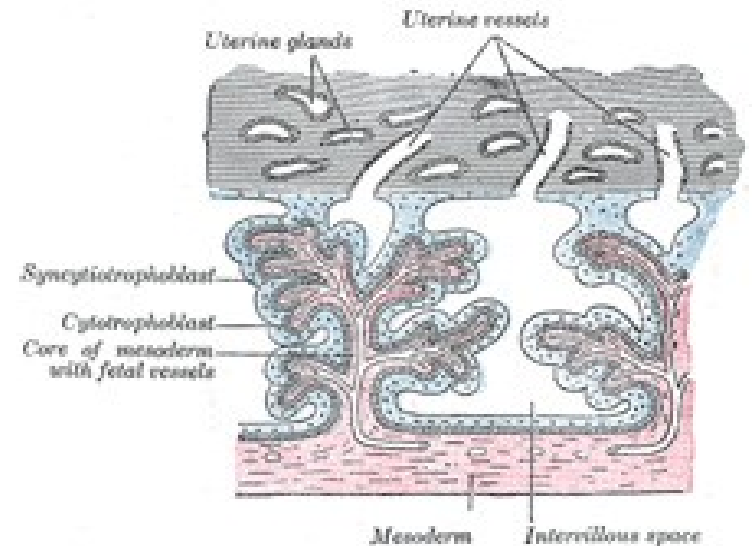
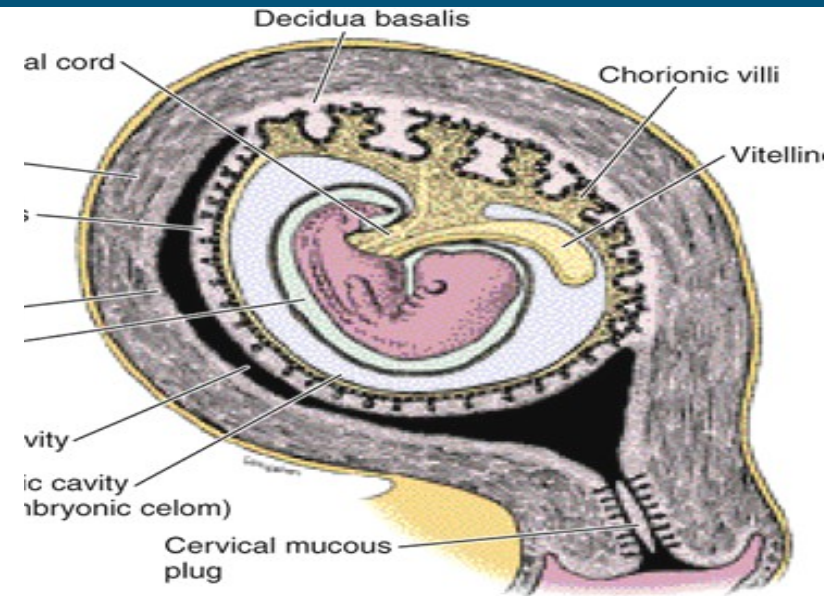
(a) Menses

ENDOMETRIAL CYCLE



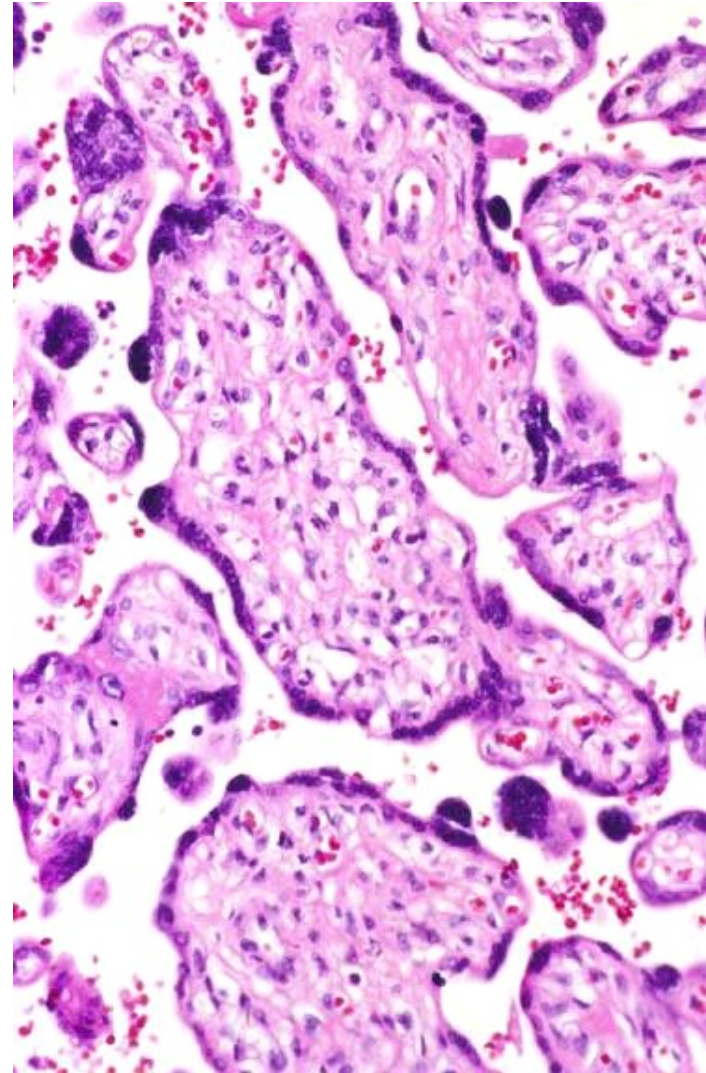
PLACENTA

- Temporary organ as the site of physiologic exchanges between mother and fetus
- also as an endocrine organ
- Consist of :
 - Fetal part :
 - Chorionic villi arise from chorionic plate
 - Connective tissue surrounded by syncytiotrophoblast and cytotrophoblast
 - Maternal part :
 - Decidua basalis form lacunae



PLACENTA

- Placental barrier :
- b) trophoblast layers
 - c) basal lamina of Trophoblast
 - e) Mesenchyme
 - f) basal lamina of capillaries
 - h) endothelium of fetal capillary



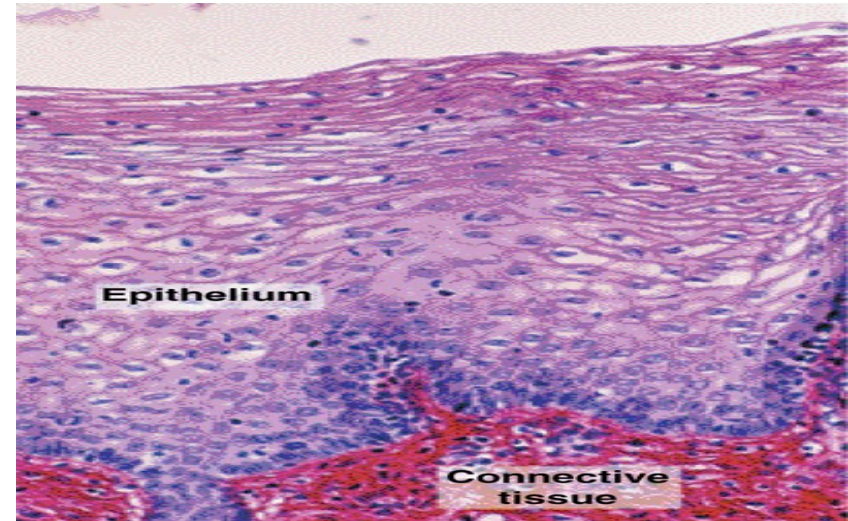
CERVIX

- Epithel :
 - Lumen : mucus-secreting simple columnar epith.
 - External surface : stratified sq. nonkeratinized epith.
- Wall :
 - dense, collagenous cont. tissue
- Cervical glands regulates by progesteron
 - Serous/watery fluid : around the time of ovulation
 - viscous/mucus : at pregnancy/luteal phase of menstruation

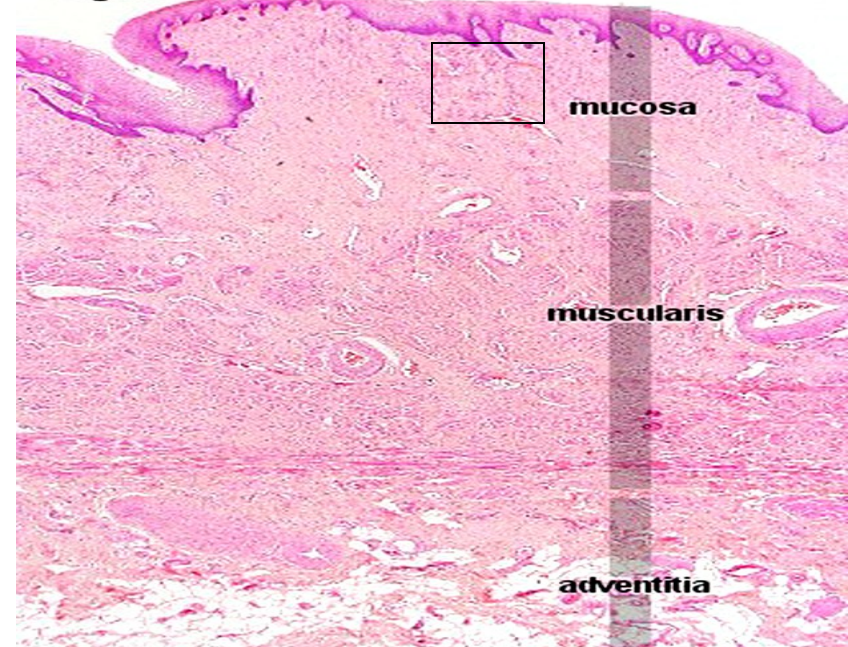
VAGINA

Vagina consist of three layers :

- Mucosa
 - Strat. Sq. Nonkeratinized Epit. (>> glycogen)
 - Lamina propria : loose fibroelastic C.T. , rich vascular.
 - **No glands** ; vaginal fluid comes from transudation & cervical glands
- Muscularis
 - Smooth muscle, inner circular & outer longitudinal
- Adventitia
 - Dense fibroelastic C.T

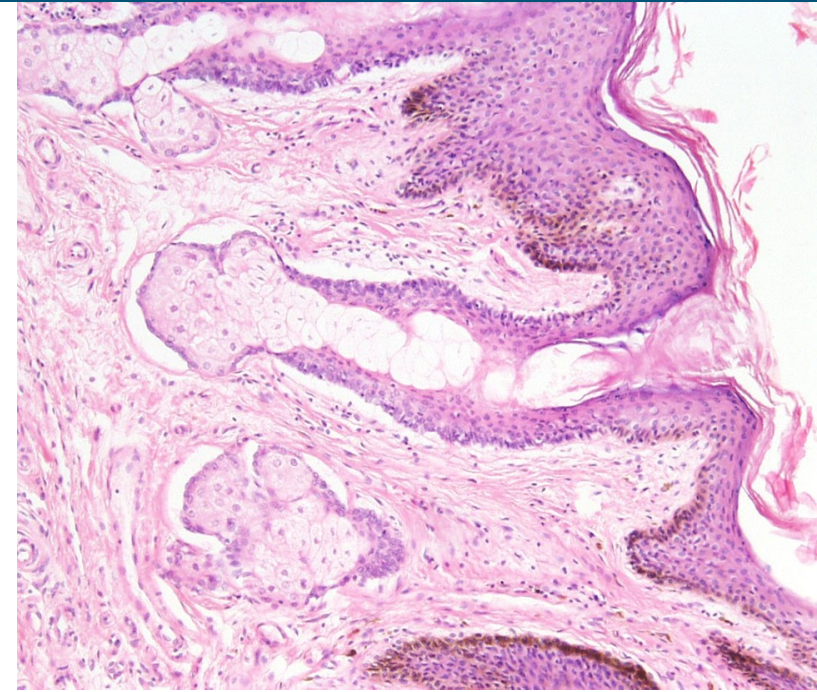


Vagina H&E



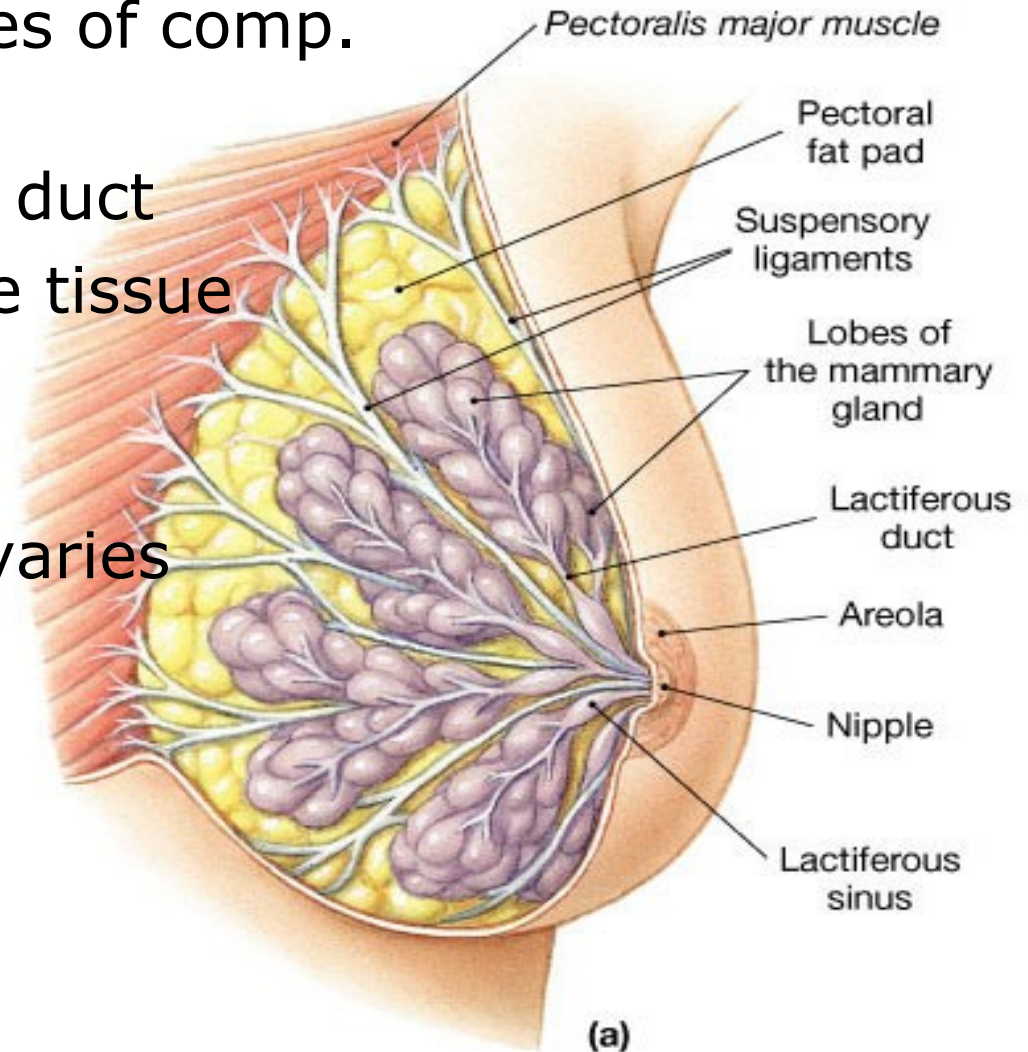
EXTERNAL GENITALIA

- Labia majora
 - Structure ~ skin
 - Rich adipose tissue
 - Sweat & sebaceous glands
- Labia minora
 - Spongy C.T. with elastic fiber
 - >> blood vessel & nerve ending
 - sebaceous glands
- Clitoris
 - Strat. Sq. epithelium
 - Two erectil bodies (blood vessels, sensory nerve)
- Glands
 - Glands of Bartholin : mucus
 - Minor vestibular glands



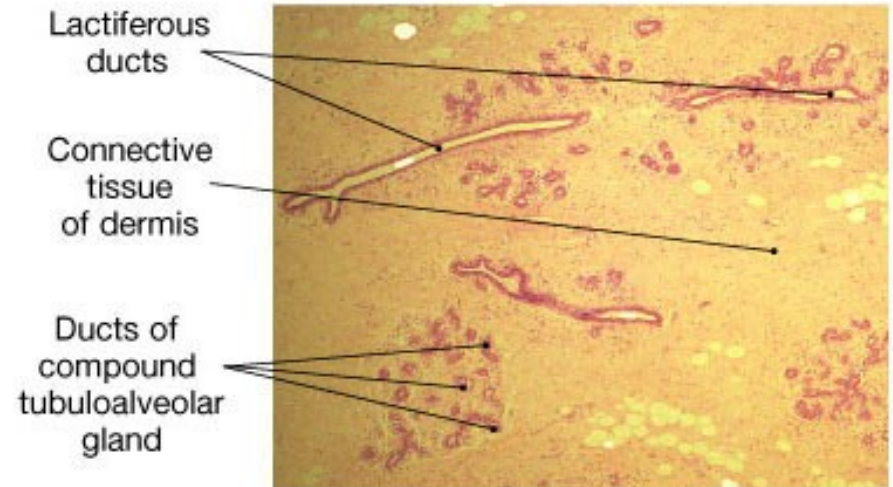
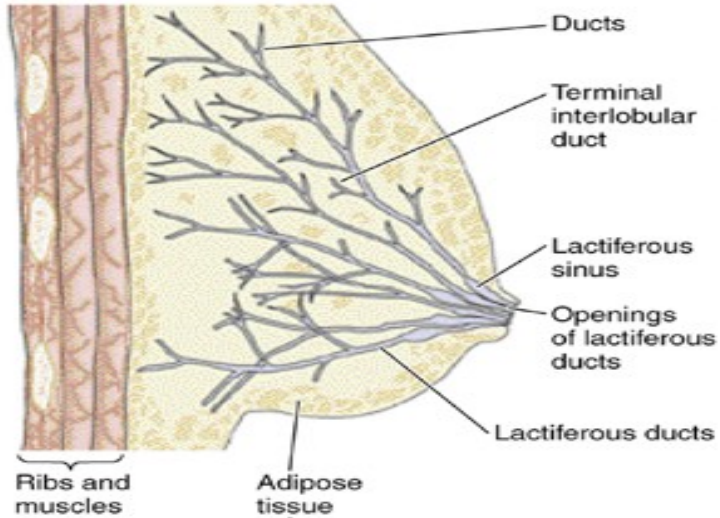
Mammary Glands

- Organs of milk production
- Consist of 15-25 lobes of comp. tubuloalveolar gland
- Excretory lactiferous duct
- Dense C.T. & adipose tissue separate the lobes
- Histologic structure varies according to :
 - Age
 - Physiologic status



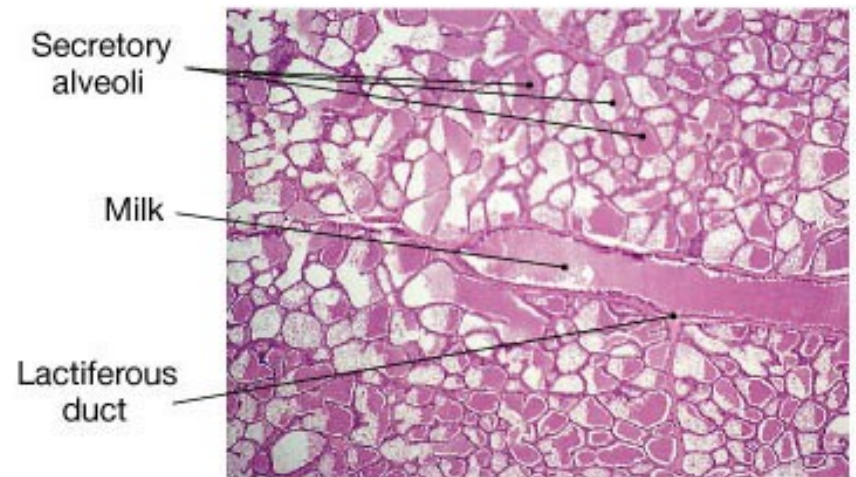
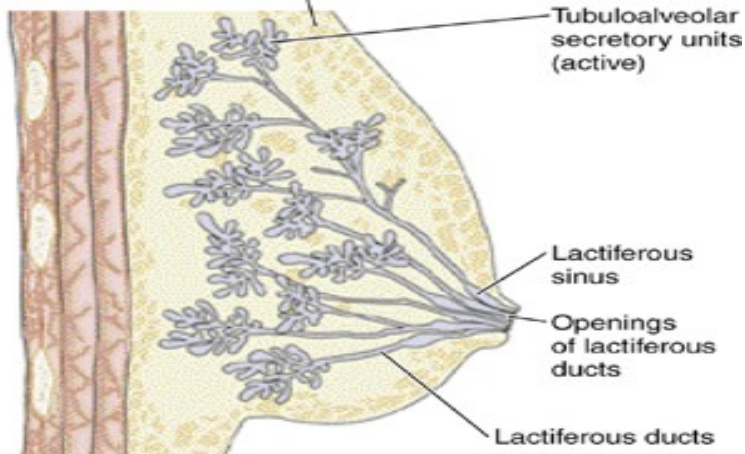
The Mammary Glands

Inactive



(b) Inactive mammary gland

Active



(c) Active mammary gland

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

