

OVULATION

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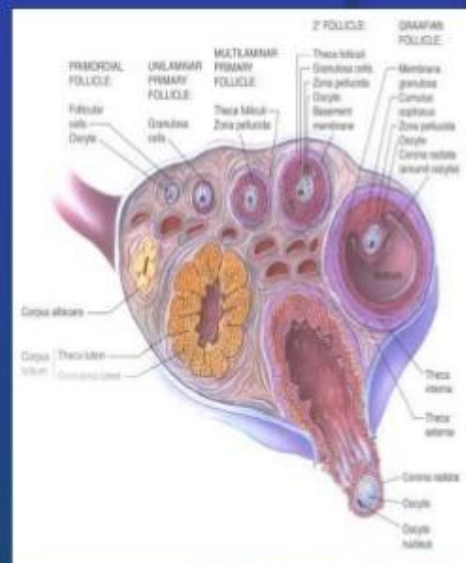
Ovulation

Ovulation is the occurrence in the menstrual cycle by which a **selected mature follicle** breaks and **releases a viable oocyte** from the ovary.

Each month, **one egg** is released in humans; but occasionally, two or more can erupt during the menstrual cycle.

In women with regular menstrual cycles, the ovulation takes place approximately two weeks after menstruation.

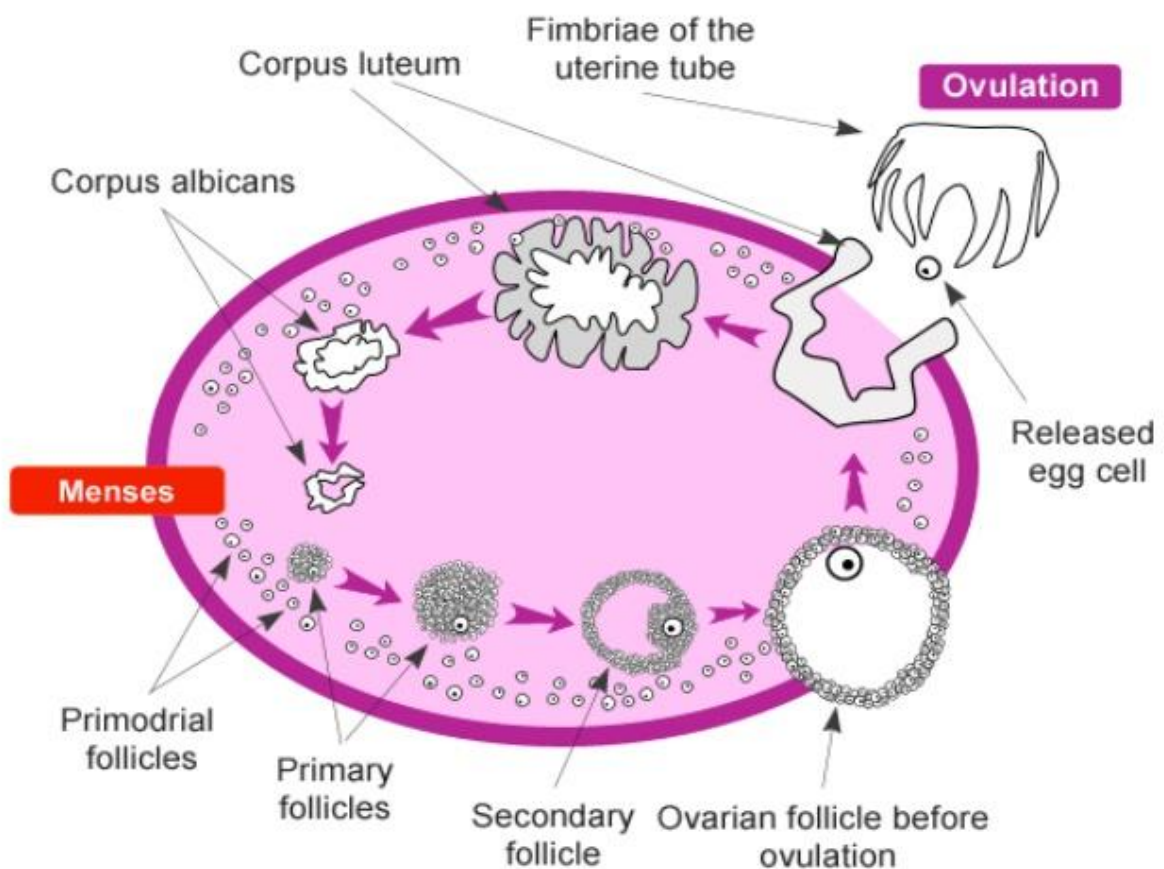
Ovulation is **triggered** by the pituitary **LH surge**, which initiates a series of ovarian events, generating a cascade of paracrine/autocrine factors, enzymes and transcription factors responsible for the rupture of the apical follicle wall, remodeling of extracellular matrix (ECM) and cell differentiation.

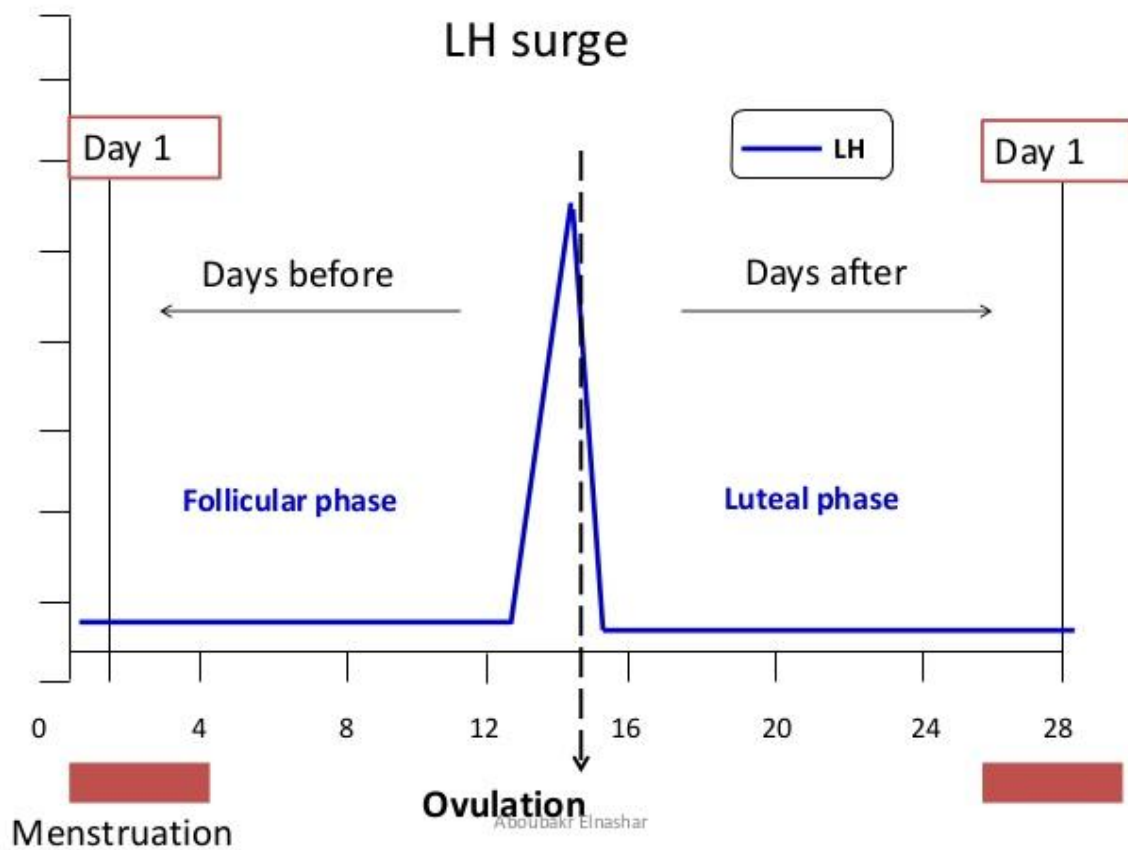


Ovulation - Importance



- **Ovulation** is when a mature egg is released from the ovary, pushed down the fallopian tube, and is available to be fertilized.
- Approximately every month an egg will mature within one of the ovaries.





Ovulation

The follicle which releases the mature egg is transformed into the corpus luteum, and emits progesterone. If conception does not take place, it dies within 16 days. If the woman does become pregnant, the corpus luteum will live for about 3 months - at which time the placenta takes over the production of progesterone.

