FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM
vulva

Includes the mons pubis, labia majora and minora, and clitoris
A mound of adipose tissue overlying the pubic symphysis
labia majora

Thick folds of skin inferior to mons pubis
labia minora
The area enclosed by the labia majora and minora

Contains urinary and vaginal orifices
clitoris
clitoris
urethral orifice
vaginal orifice
hymen

Tissue covering vaginal orifice
Bulb of the vestibule

Subcutaneous erectile tissues that bracket the vagina like a pair of parentheses.
Vestibular (Bartholin’s) gland

Glands that keep the vulva moist and provide lubrication during intercourse
vagina
cervix

The cylindrical inferior end of the uterus
fornix

Portion of the vagina that extends slightly beyond the cervix
uterus
endometrium

Inner lining of uterine wall and site of attachment of the embryo
myometrium

Layer of smooth muscles constituting most of the uterine wall

Produces labor contractions that expel the fetus
perimetrium

Outer layer of the uterine wall
uterine tubes (oviducts, fallopian)
fimbriae

Means “fringe”
ovaries

Female gonads that produce eggs
primordial follicle

Consists of a single layer of flattened cells

Contains immature primary oocyte
primordial follicles
primary follicle

Hormones (FSH) causes flattened cells to become cuboidal and multiply becoming stratified.

Still contains the primary oocyte.
primary follicle
secondary follicle

Once the follicle contains a fluid filled cavity it becomes a secondary follicle.

Still contains the primary oocyte.
secondary follicle
Mature (Graafian) follicle

One of the stimulated follicles outpaces the rest and becomes a mature follicle.

It protrudes from surface of ovary like a blister.

Secondary oocyte stops before completing meiosis II and is ready for ovulation.
Mature (Graafian) follicle
antrum

Cavity that contains estrogen-rich follicular fluid

Indicates a secondary follicle
antrum
zona pellucida

Clear layer of gel between the ovum and the follicular cells
zona pellucida

between circles – outside oocyte and inside corona radiata
corona radiata

Inner most layer of follicular cells that are in contact with the zona pellucida
corona radiata

ring of cells
After ovulation, follicle collapses into the antrum and cells accumulate a yellow lipid that secretes hormones.

lute = yellow
corpus albicans

An inactive remnant of the corpus luteum
Supporting ligaments
broad ligament

Contains the uterine artery and vein
round ligament

Attach anterior surface of uterus to abdominal wall
suspensory ligament

Contains the ovarian artery and vein

Attaches ovary to pelvic wall
ovarian ligament

Attaches ovary to uterus
oogenesis
Oogenesis and Follicle Development

Before birth
- Mitosis
- Growth

Meliotic Events

Childhood
- Each month from puberty to menopause
  - Meiosis I (completed by one primary oocyte each month)
  - First polar body
  - Polar bodies (all polar bodies degenerate)

Follicle Development in Ovary

- Oogonium (stem cell)
- Primary oocyte
- Primary oocyte (arrested in prophase I present at birth)
- Primary oocyte (still arrested in prophase I)
- Secondary oocyte (arrested in metaphase II)
- Meiosis II completed (only if sperm penetration occurs)
- Ovulation
- Vesicular (Graafian) follicle
- Growing follicle
- Primordial follicle
- Ovary inactive
- Ovulated secondary oocyte

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mammary gland

All of the structures that function in the synthesis, secretion, and ejection of milk
alveolar gland

Synthesis of milk
alveolar duct

Milk travels from alveolar gland into the alveolar duct
lactiferous duct

Milk travels from the alveolar duct through the lactiferous duct to exit the nipple
areola

Darkened area where dermal blood capillaries come closer to the surface
nipple