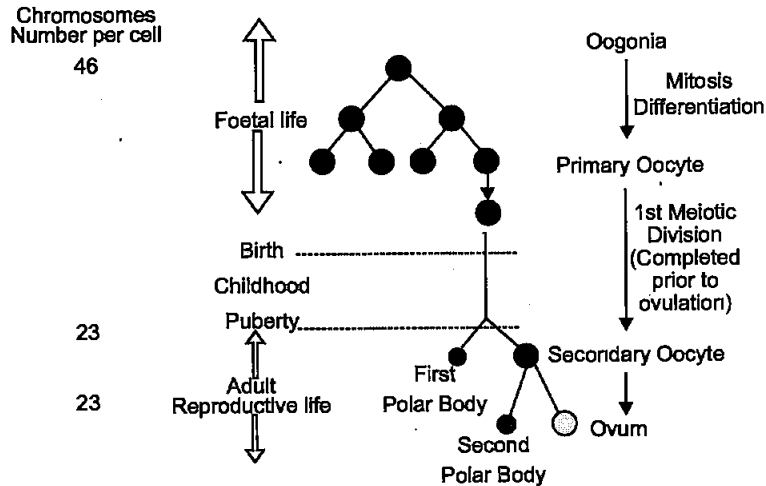


1° oocyte undergoes meiosis I producing two haploid cells—larger one is secondary oocyte and the smaller one is 1st polar body.

This division occurs one at a time, once a month. The follicular sheath cells differentiates to form layers. A layer called theca develops from cortex,

which further divides into two layers—interna and externa. The 2° oocyte develops zona pellucida undergoes meiosis-II and proceeds upto metaphase II only. Further development will start only after the arrival of spermatozoa. The follicle grows to maximum size and is called Graafian follicle. It is in this stage of oocyte that egg is shed during ovulation.



The hormones involved in the process are many. Firstly in response to production of GnRH or Gonadotropin releasing hormone, anterior pituitary secretes two hormones—FSH (Follicle stimulating hormone) and LH (Luteinizing hormone). FSH stimulates follicular growth and maturation of oocyte. The follicular cells

of developing follicles produce estrogen. In presence of high concentration of estrogen and LH ovulation occurs. LH aids in converting empty Graafian follicle into corpus luteum. Corpus luteum secretes hormone progesterone which prepares the uterus to receive fertilised ovum.

••