

The Menstrual Cycle

Question: How do pituitary and ovarian hormones interact with ovarian and uterine events during the menstrual cycle?

Procedure

1. Study the graphs, and observe how the levels of hormones affect each other as well as the follicle and endometrium.
2. Use the Analysis questions to analyze and interpret the graphs.

Analysis

1. Other than day 14, during which days of the menstrual cycle does the level of FSH increase?

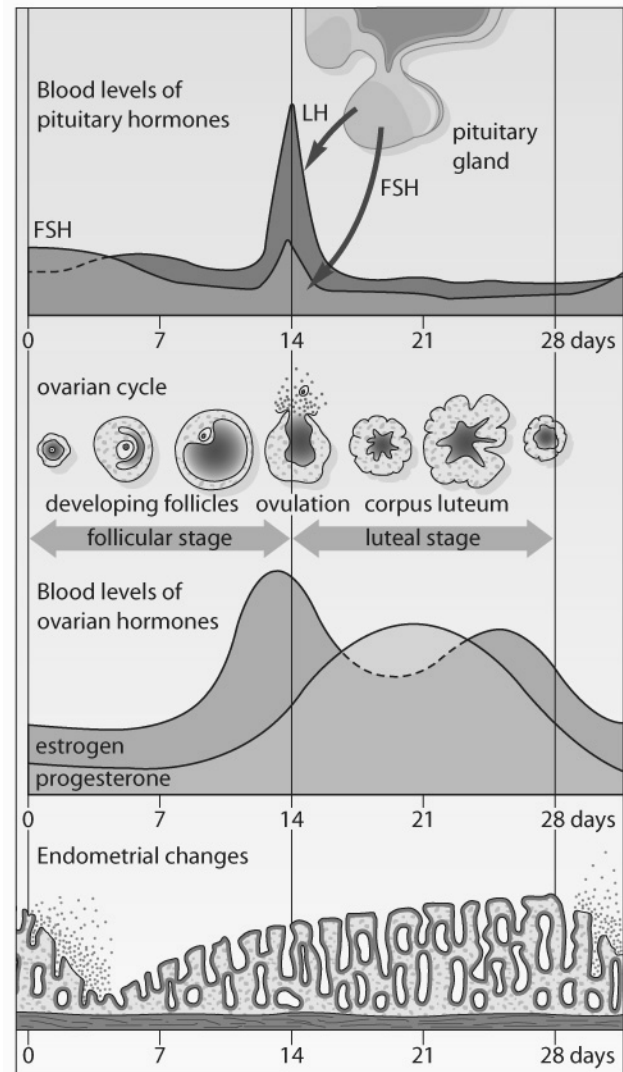
What happens to the follicle during this time in regards to its effects on the ova and hormones?

2. On which day is the level of LH in the bloodstream at its highest?

In regards to another hormone, why does the body decide to release LH?

What major event occurs immediately after this peak?

3. After the egg is released and as LH starts to decline in the blood, what other effect has LH had in regards to the follicle?



	The Menstrual Cycle (cont'd)	

4. During which days of the cycle does the level of estrogen in the blood increase most rapidly?

Why or what is the cause of this increase?

What happens in the uterus during this time?

5. What causes the rapid increase of progesterone?

What happens in the uterus during this time?

6. During which days of the cycle are the levels of estrogen and progesterone at their lowest?

What happens in the uterus during this time?

Conclusions

7. How do increased levels of estrogen and progesterone appear to affect the level of FSH/LH in the blood?

Why would we want FSH levels to be at this level at this time?

	The Menstrual Cycle (cont'd)	

8. Do the names of the hormones FSH and LH correspond/relate to their functions? Explain your answer.

9. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the functions of estrogen and progesterone in the menstrual cycle.

10. At which time in the menstrual cycle is a woman most fertile? Explain your answer.