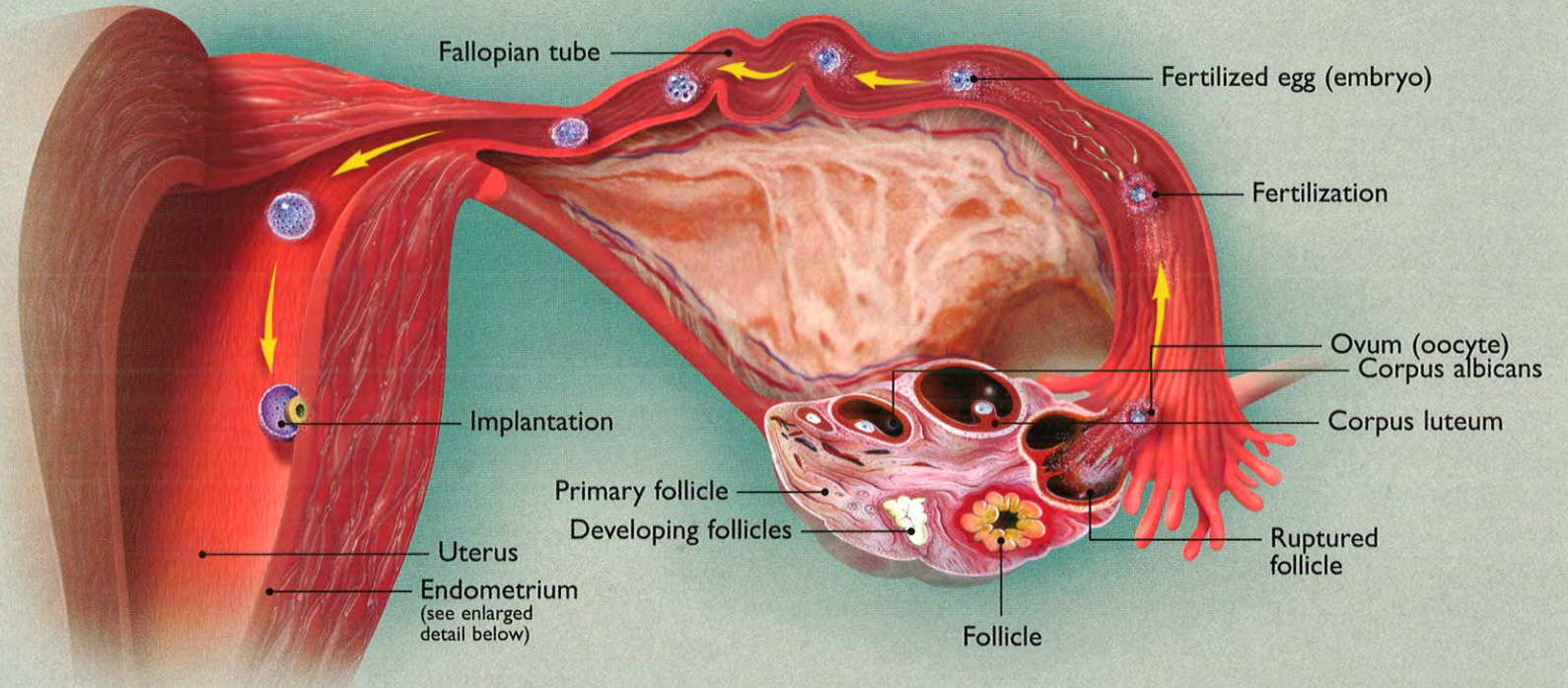


# what happens in a normal reproductive cycle?

## HOW PREGNANCY OCCURS

- Ovaries store and release eggs
- Each month, a mature egg leaves the ovary and travels through the fallopian tube to the uterus
- During this time the uterine lining thickens to prepare for a baby, and mucus in the cervix thins so that sperm can reach the egg
- Fertilization occurs when a sperm joins with an egg in the fallopian tube
- The fertilized egg (embryo) develops into a baby
- If the egg is not fertilized, the uterus sheds its thickened lining (menstruation)



## HOW HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION WORKS

- Hormones, estrogen and progestin, prevent the ovary from releasing an egg into the fallopian tube
- Mucus in the cervix thickens, making it difficult for sperm to enter the uterus and fertilize the egg
- The endometrium (lining of the uterus) thins to prevent implantation

