

Primordial

- No theca
- Flattened GCs
- Precursor thecal cells in surrounding stroma
- No LHR expression
- No ability to produce steroids

Primary

- Cuboidal GCs
- Signals from follicle to stroma to recruit thecal cells

Preantral

- Thecal cells recruited and begin to differentiate; produce LH receptors, steroidogenic enzymes and small amounts of androgens
- GCs secrete activin, BMPs, GDF9, inhibin, TGFB to control androgen production

Antral

- Thecal cells mature and become steroidogenic under control of LH
- Increasing amounts of androgen produced, converted to estradiol in GCs

Corpus luteum

- Thecal cells luteinize
- Transient endocrine gland
- Change function to produce progesterone

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