

Hormones of Other Major Endocrine Glands

Hormone	Source	Target	Action (s)
Testosterone	Testis	Spermatogenic cells Muscle Bone tissue Other tissues	Promotes the development of male reproductive system and male secondary sexual characteristics
Estrogen	Ovarian follicles	Uterus Mammary glands Other tissues	Promotes the development of female reproductive system , female breasts, and female secondary sexual characteristics
Progesterone	Corpus luteum	Uterus Other tissues	Stimulates secretion of “uterine milk” by the uterine endometrial glands and promotes development of secretory apparatus of breasts
Human chorionic gonadotropin (<i>hCG</i>)	Chorion (<i>fetal tissue component of the placenta</i>)	Ovary	Promotes growth of corpus luteum and secretion of estrogens and progesterone by corpus luteum

During pregnancy, the hormone human chorionic gonadotropin (*hCG*) is secreted by the placenta, and it circulates both in the mother and the fetus. It promotes growth of the corpus luteum and secretion of estrogens and progesterone by corpus luteum.

The ovaries of a female **produce ova**, the **female sex hormones** (*progesterone and estrogen*), and **follicles**. The **corpus luteum** is a yellowish mass of cells that forms from an ovarian follicle after the release of a mature egg (*ovulation*). If the mature egg **is not fertilized** and **pregnancy does not occur**, the corpus luteum retrogresses to a mass of scar tissue (*corpus albicans*) which eventually disappears. If the mature egg **is fertilized** and **pregnancy does occur**, the corpus luteum **does not degenerate** but persists for several months.