**Class: B.Sc.1st year (2:50pm-4:30pm)**

**Ovary:**

The ovaries are two almond shaped glands placed on each site of uterus. There are two ovaries on each side behind and below the fallopian tubes. Total weight of the adult ovaries on each side behind and below the fallopian tubes. Total weight of the adult ovaries is 10-20 gm, which decreases with increasing age. Ovaries are 2.5-3.5 cm long/ 2 cm wide and 1 cm thick.

**Structure of the ovaries:** The ovaries have two layers of tissue-

**The Medulla**: The lies in the centre and consists of fibrous tissue, blood vessels and nerves.

**The Cortex**: This surrounds the medulla. It has a frame work of connective tissue, or stroma covered by germinal epithelium. It contain ovarian follicles in various stages of maturity, each of which contains an ovum before puberty the ovaries are inactive but the stroma already contains immature follicles, which the female has from birth during the childbearing years about every 28 days one ovarian follicle, matures, ruptures and release its ovum into the peritoneal cavity. This is called an ovulation and it occurs during most menstrual cycles.

**Blood supply, lymph drainage and nerve supply-**

**Arterial Supply**: This is by the ovarian arteries, which branch from the abdominal aorta just below the renal arteries.

**Venous drainage**: This is into a plexus of vein behind the uterus from which the ovarian veins arise. The right ovarian vein opens into the inferior vena cava and the left into the left renal vein.

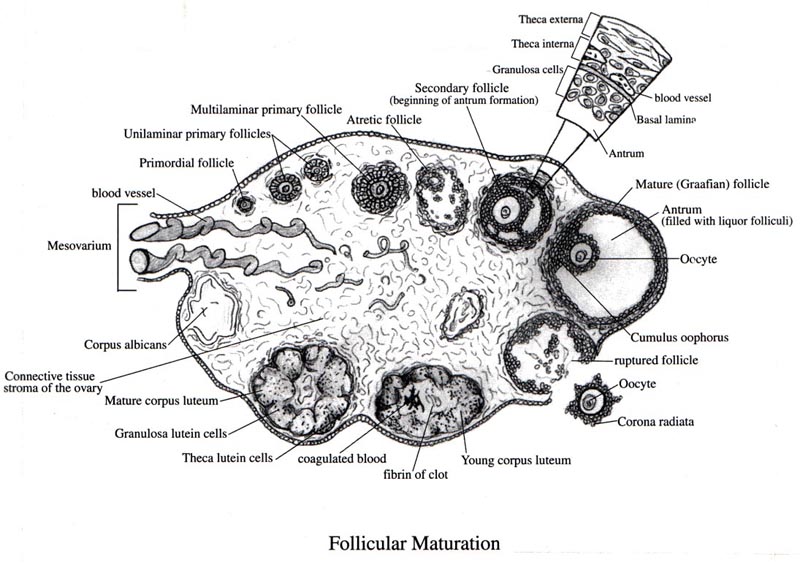
**Nerve Supply**: The ovaries are supplied by parasympathetic nerve from the sacral outflow and sympathetic nerves from the lumber outflow.

**Lymph drainage**: This is to the lateral arotic and preaortic lymph nodes. These vessels follow the same route as the arteries.

**Function of Ovary:**

1. To produce and discharge ova (eggs).
2. To secrete female hormones called ovarian hormones (estrogen and progesterone mainly).

**Diagram of Ovary**

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