



Figure 1

Follicle Selection. Depiction of a representative Graafian follicle (pig) at the largest cross-sectional diameter (a), and a representative preantral follicle (hamster) at the midsection (b) and examples of diameter measurements with and without inclusion of the thecal layer, (c,d) respectively.

follicle from any mammalian model can be generally categorized as primordial, primary, or secondary based on the presence and number of cuboidal granulosa cell layers [5,7]. Secondary follicles can then be further subdivided into various stages based on the size and presence of

antral fluid. These stages are initially defined as preantral (prior to the accumulation of antral fluid) or antral (after the accumulation of antral fluid). Antral stages are further clarified into stages of incipient antral (from the first signs of fluid accumulation) to later stages of early antral and