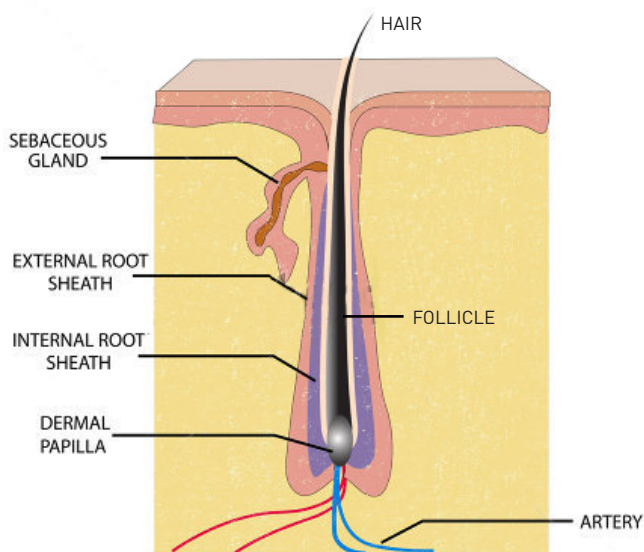


# Why does hair turn gray?

To find out why hair turns gray we have to investigate *hair follicles*.

Hair follicles are tubes of tissue that surround the roots of each hair strand. Inside the hair follicles are *pigment cells* that determine if our hair is red, brown, black or blond. As people age, their hair follicles start to die. Without enough pigment cells from these dying hair follicles, hair gradually turns gray or white.



## QUESTION & ANSWER:

What are the tubes of tissue that surround the roots of each hair strand?

Hair Follicles

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Located inside the hair follicles, what determines the color of our hair?

Pigment Cells

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What helps determine whether a person's hair turns gray or white?

Genes

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There isn't a certain age when every person starts getting gray hair. It depends on each individual's *genes*. A good way to predict when or if someone you know might get gray hair is to look at that person's parents or grandparents.