



Figure 4-43. Secretory phase of the endometrium (Figure 4-34 depicts the endometrium in the proliferative phase). Asterisks denote the lumen of endometrial glands; these glands produce histotrophe ("uterine milk") that is secreted into the uterine cavity. The embryo depends on metrial secretions for nourishment during early pregnancy (ie., before placentation). Histotrophe is rich in glucose (derived from endometrial stores of glycogen) and uteroferrin (a protein involved in iron transport).