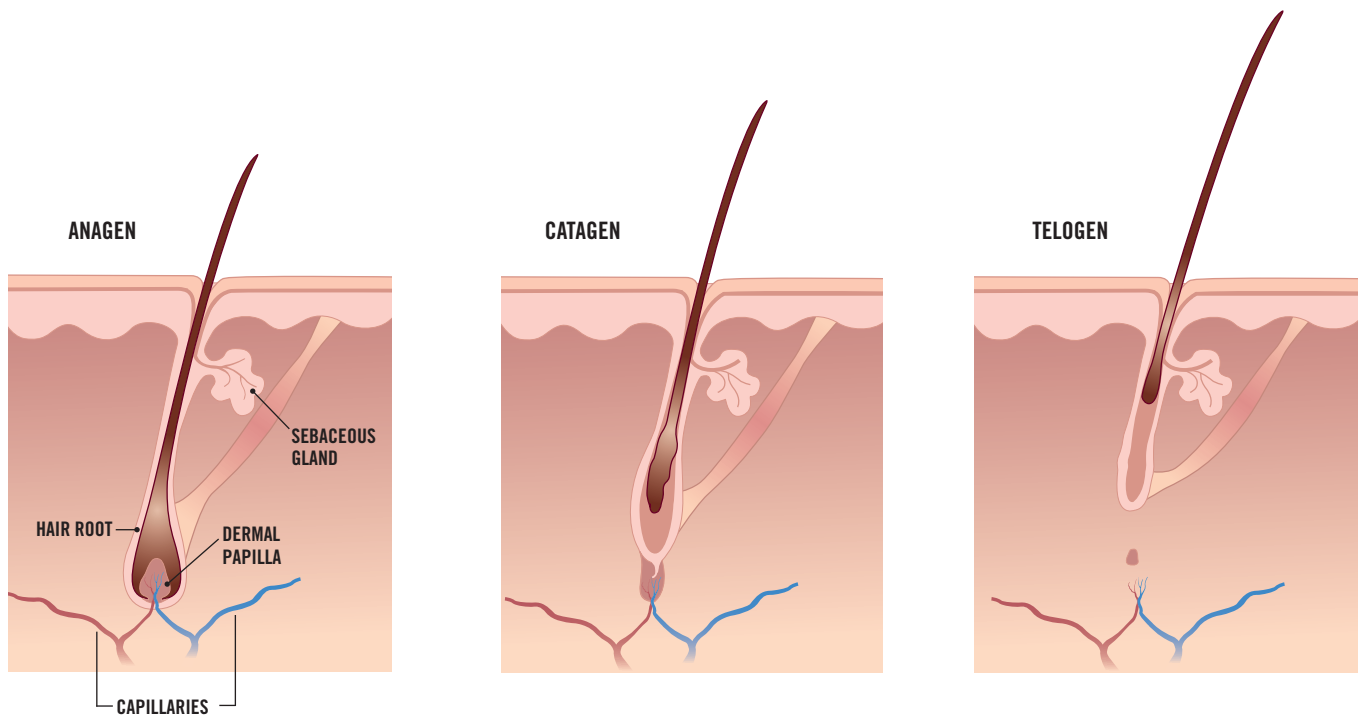


Hair Loss

Hair loss is a common side effect that can result from radiation to a treated area or from some chemotherapies.



All hair follicles go through a cycle of growth (anagen), a transitional phase (catagen) and a terminal phase (telogen) when the older hair falls out and a new cycle of hair growth begins. Anagen is the longest phase, with up to 90 percent of follicles in that phase at any given time. The catagen phase is a transitional time when cell division slows. The telogen phase, the resting phase, is the point of hair loss. Chemotherapy affects the rapidly dividing cells in the bulb surrounding the dermal papilla, which is at the base of the hair follicle, causing hair loss. Patients who receive radiation to parts of the body where there is hair growth may lose hair in that area. Most patients will have their hair grow back once chemotherapy or radiation is completed.