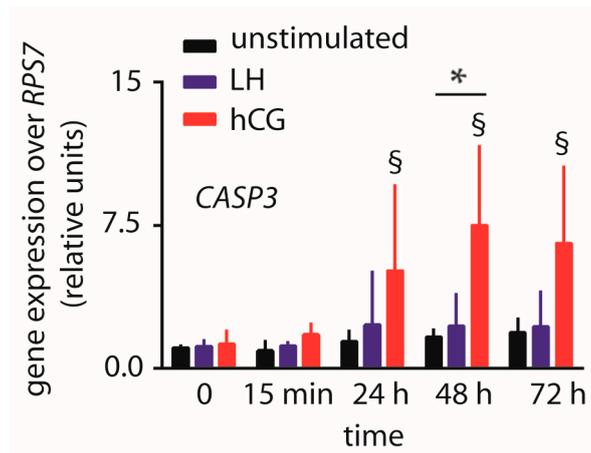
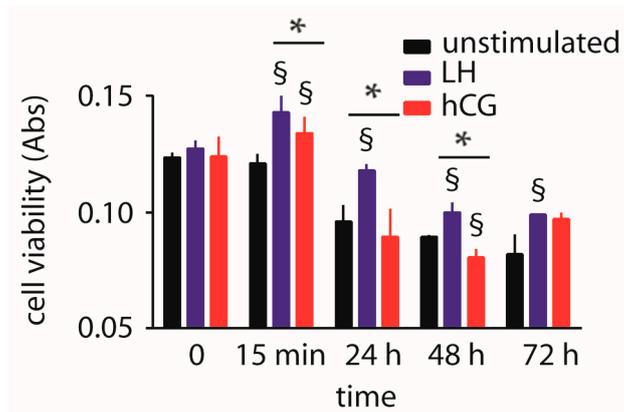


**Figure S1.** Comparison of LH- and hCG-induced ERK1/2, AKT and CREB phosphorylation over 72 h, in the hGL5/LHCGR cell line. A) Evaluation of pERK1/2, pAKT and pCREB activation by Western blotting. Total ERK served as loading control (images representative of four independent experiments). B-D) Semi-quantification of pERK1/2, pAKT and pCREB Western blotting signals. §=significantly different to unstimulated (control) at the same time-point; \*=significant difference of LH versus hCG; two-way Anova and Bonferroni post-test ( $p < 0.05$ ; means  $\pm$  SD;  $n = 4$ ).



**Figure S2.** Time-course (0-72 h) analysis of LH- and hCG-induced *CASP3* gene expression, by real time PCR. Values were normalized over the expression of RPS7 housekeeping gene. §=significantly different to unstimulated (control) at the same time-point; \*=significant difference of LH versus hCG; two-way Anova and Bonferroni post-test ( $p < 0.05$ ; means  $\pm$  SD;  $n=3$ ).



**Figure S3.** Analysis of LH- and hCG-treated (0-72 h), serum-starved hGL5/LHCGR cell viability, by MTT assay. Cells maintained in the absence of gonadotropin served as controls. §=significantly different to unstimulated (control) at the same time-point; \*=significant difference of LH versus hCG; two-way Anova and Bonferroni post-test ( $p < 0.05$ ; means  $\pm$  SD; means  $\pm$  SD;  $n=10$ ).