











Medical Laboratory Techniques Department The Endocrine System



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The endocrine system is a chemical control system. It functions in conjunction with the nervous system to control the internal environment (homeostasis).

TABLE 26.3 MAJOR HUMAN ENDOCRINE GLANDS AND SOME OF THEIR HORMONES

Gland (module)	Hormone	Chemical Class	Representative Actions	Regulated by	
Thyroid gland (26.5–6)		Thyroxine (T ₄) and triiodothyronine (T ₃)	Amine	Stimulate and maintain metabolic processes	TSH
		Calcitonin	Peptide	Lowers blood calcium level	Calcium in blood
Parathyroid glands (26.5–6)		Parathyroid hormone (PTH)	Peptide	Raises blood calcium level	Calcium in blood
Thymus (26.3)		Thymosin	Peptide	Stimulates T cell development	Not known
Adrenal gland (26.9)					
Adrenal medulla		Epinephrine and norepinephrine	Amine	Increase blood glucose; increase metabolic activities; constrict certain blood vessels	Nervous system
Adrenal cortex		Glucocorticoids	Steroid	Increase blood glucose	ACTH
		Mineralocorticoids	Steroid	Promote reabsorption of Na ⁺ and excretion of K ⁺ in kidneys	K ⁺ in blood
Pancreas (26.7–8)		Insulin	Protein	Lowers blood glucose	Glucose in blood
		Glucagon	Protein	Raises blood glucose	Glucose in blood
Testes (26.10)		Androgens	Steroid	Support sperm formation; promote development and maintenance of male secondary sex characteristics	FSH and LH
Ovaries (26.10)		Estrogens	Steroid	Stimulate uterine lining growth; promote development and maintenance of female secondary sex characteristics	FSH and LH
		Progesterone	Steroid	Promotes uterine lining growth	FSH and LH

Endocrine gland is :

I. Pituitary Gland

- Anterior Pituitary Lobe
- Posterior Pituitary Lobe

II. Thyroid Gland

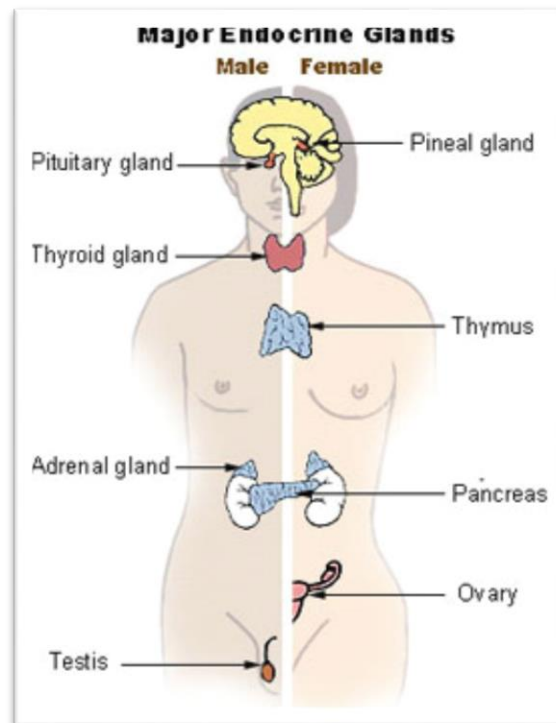
III. Parathyroid



IV. Adrenal Glands

VI. Pancreas - (Islets of Langerhans cells)

VII. Pineal Gland



*** Anterior Pituitary - (Adenohypophysis)**

Growth Hormone (GH) - Somatotrophic Hormone (STH)

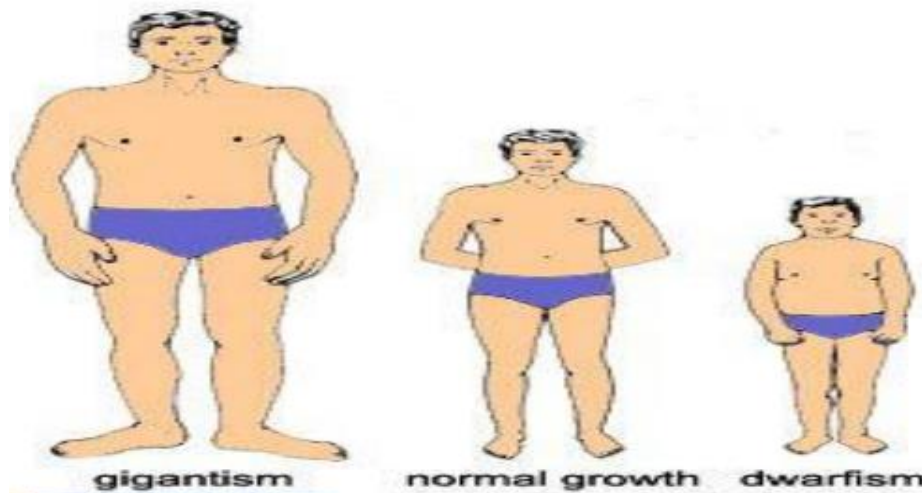
1. Increases Growth and Maintenance of Organs by:

- a. stimulating protein anabolism
- b. promotes fat catabolism (use of fat rather than sugars for energy)



2. Abnormal Secretions of (GH)

- a. **Giantism** -- hypersecretion during childhood (before epiphyseal plates close)
- b. **Acromegaly** -- hypersecretion during adulthood
- c. **Dwarfism** -- hyposecretion during childhood



Prolactin

- 1. promotes breast development during pregnancy
- 2. stimulates mammary glands to produce milk after delivery

Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) - (Thyrotropin)

- 1. promotes growth of the Thyroid Gland
- 2. stimulates the secretion of the Thyroid Hormone



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Adrenocorticotropin -- (ACTH)

1. promotes growth of the Adrenal Cortex
2. stimulates the secretion of Cortical Hormones
3. stimulates Fat Catabolism & Glycogenesis

Gonadotropins - FSH and LH

1. Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH)

- female - stimulates the Ovarian Follicles to Develop and produce ova -
-stimulates the Ovarian Follicles to secrete Estrogens
- male- stimulates the production of sperm
-stimulates the secretion of Testosterone

2. Luteinizing Hormone (LH)

- **female** - associated with FSH in development of the Ovarian Follicles
*stimulates development of the Corpus Luteum following ovulation
*stimulates Corpus Luteum to secrete Progesterone
- **male** - stimulates the Interstitial Cells to secrete Testosterone

. Posterior Pituitary Lobe

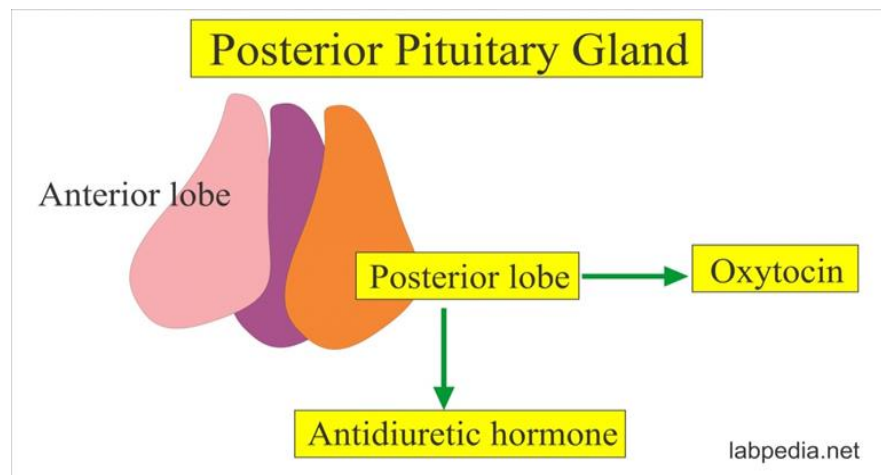
1. Antidiuretic Hormone (ADH) - produced in the hypothalamus and collected and secreted by the posterior lobe

- a. increases the permeability of the kidney tubules to water
- b. promotes the reabsorption of the water from the urinary filtrate resulting in a smaller volume of urine
- c. Diabetes insipidus - condition resulting in larger volumes of urine produced - may be treated with vasopressin



2. Oxytocin

- a. stimulates powerful contractions of the pregnant uterus at the time of delivery
- b. causes milk ejection from the lactating breast



Pituitary Gland

III. THYROID GLAND

Function

- a. follicle cells secrete Thyroxine (Thyroid Hormone)

Thyroxine is a combination of Tyrosine & Iodine to make two compounds:

Tetraiodothyronine - T₄

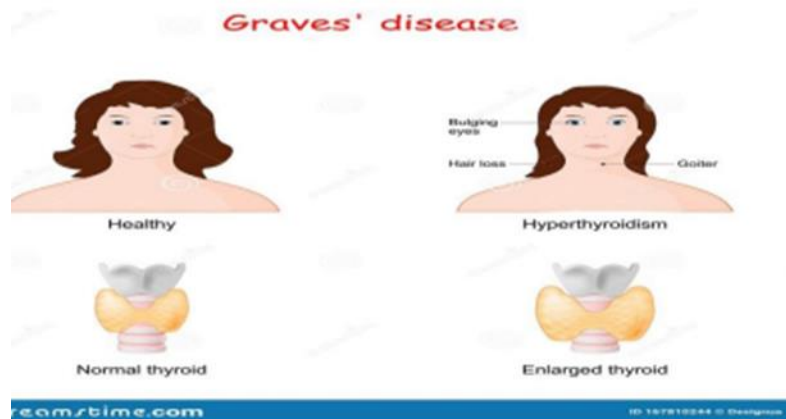
Triiodothyronine - T₃



Disorders of the Thyroid

a. Hyperthyroidism (Grave's disease)

- increases nervousness and irritability - exophthalmos - results in edema behind the eyes



b. Hypothyroidism

Cretinism - occurs if the hyposecretion is during fetal or early developmental life.

- results in reduced growth
- results in mental retardation

Myxedema - occurs if the hyposecretion is during adult life

- results in reduced mental & physical activity



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