

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

• Second controlling system of the body

Hormones control several major processes

- Reproduction
- Growth and development
- Mobilization of body defenses
- Maintenance of much of homeostasis
- Regulation of metabolism

Endocrinology is the scientific study of hormones and endocrine organs.

Hormones are classified chemically as:

- **Amino acid**—based, which includes:
 - Proteins
 - Peptides
 - Amines
- **Steroids**—made from cholesterol
- **Prostaglandins**—made from highly active lipids that act as local hormones

Hormones act by two mechanisms

1. **Direct gene activation**
 - Used by steroid hormones and thyroid hormone
2. **Second-messenger system**
 - Used by protein and peptide hormones

• The stimuli that activate endocrine glands fall into three major categories

1. Hormonal
2. Humoral
3. Neural

1. **Hormonal stimuli**

- Most common category of stimulus
- Endocrine organs are activated by other hormones

2. **Humoral stimuli**

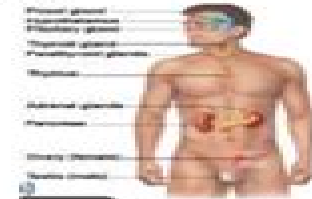
- Changing blood levels of certain ions and nutrients stimulate hormone release
- Humoral indicates various body fluids, such as blood and bile

3. **Neural stimuli**

- Nerve fibers stimulate hormone release
- Most are under the control of the sympathetic nervous system

The Major Endocrine Organs

- Pineal gland
- Hypothalamus
- Pituitary gland
- Thyroid gland
- Parathyroid glands
- Thymus
- Adrenal glands
- Pancreas
- Gonads (testes and ovaries)



1. Pituitary gland

- Pea-sized gland
- Protected by the sella turcica of the sphenoid bone

Has two functional lobes

- **Anterior pituitary**—glandular tissue
- **Posterior pituitary**—nervous tissue

Often called the **“master endocrine gland”**

Hypothalamus produces releasing hormones and inhibiting hormones.

Hypothalamus also makes two hormones: **oxytocin** and **antidiuretic hormone**

Hypothalamus also secretes **somatostatin** – pituitary gland to stop the release of growth hormone

Six anterior pituitary hormones

Two hormones affect nonendocrine targets

1. Growth hormone
2. Prolactin

Four are tropic hormones

1. Follicle-stimulating hormone
2. Luteinizing hormone
3. Thyrotropic hormone
4. Adrenocorticotrophic hormone

Anterior Pituitary

Hormone	Function
Growth Hormone	• Stimulates bone growth and tissue • Causes amino acids to be built into proteins • Causes fats to be broken down for a source of energy
Prolactin	Stimulates milk production in females
Gonadotropic Hormones	Control sexual function and production of sex steroids, estrogen and progesterone
(1) Luteinizing hormone (LH) (2) Follicle-stimulating hormone	
Thyroid-stimulating hormone (thyrotropic hormone)	Influences growth and activity of the thyroid gland
Adrenocorticotrophic hormone	Regulates endocrine activity of the adrenal cortex

Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises

L Cohen



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Table of Contents Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises

1. Understanding the eBook Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises User Reviews and Ratings
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises Free and Paid eBooks
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises Public Domain eBooks
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises eBook Subscription Services
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises Compatibility with Devices
 - Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Interactive Elements Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
8. Staying Engaged with Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Setting Reading Goals Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Endocrine System Marieb Manual Exercises
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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