Hypothalamus and adenohypophysis

Neuroendocrine regulation

THALAMUS

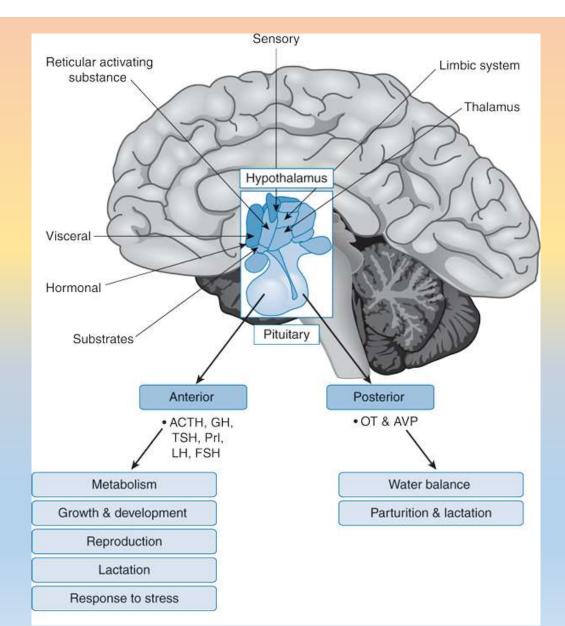
- NON-SPECIFIC NUCLEI
- SPECIFIC SENSORY NUCLEI
- SPECIFIC NONSENSORY NUCLEI
- ASSOCIATION NUCLEI

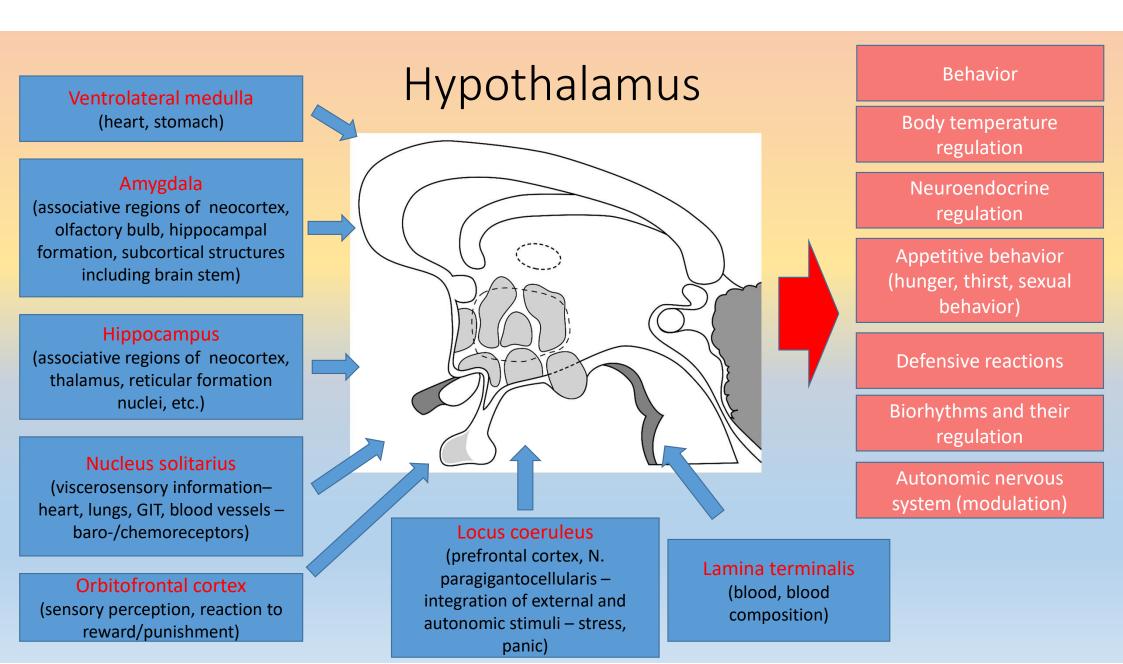
HYPOTHALAMUS

- SYSTEM OF SEVERAL DOZENS OF NUCLEI
- PARAVENTRICULAR
- MEDIAL
- LATERAL REGION

HYPOPHYSIS

- PARS DISTALIS (STH, PRL, TSH, FSH, LH, ACTH)
- PARS TUBERALIS (FSH, LH)
- PARS INTERMEDIA (MSH)





Circumventricular organs

Eminentia mediana

Afferent sensoric organ

- Functional connection of hypothalamus and hypophysis
- Point of entry of some hormones from circulation (fenestration) leptin
- CONVERSION HUMORAL FACTORS HYPOTHALAMIC REGULATION NEURONS

OVLT

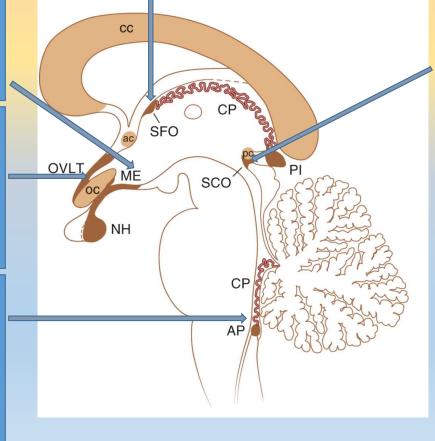
- Regulation of autonomous processes
- Febrile regulation
- Blood osmolality
- Regulation of secretion of GnRH stimulated by estrogens

Area postrema

- Afference (n. vagus, n. glossopharyn-geus)
- R for GLP-1 and amylin
- Chemosensoric neurons with osmoR
- "detection" of toxins
- coordinated regulation of blood pressure (R for ATII, ADH, ANP)

Subfornical organ

- Body fluid homeostasis
- Blood pressure regulation (R for ANP and ATII)
- Oxytocin secretion regulation

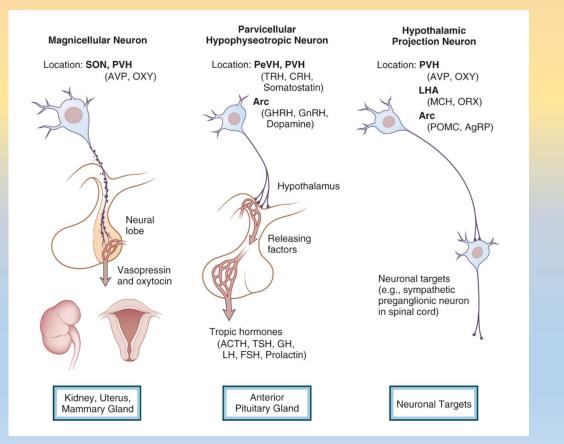


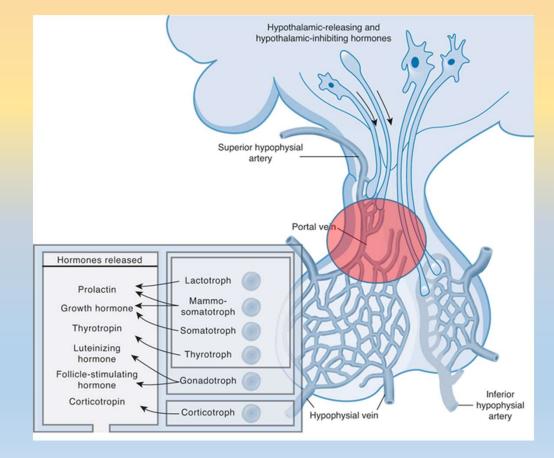
Subcommissural organ

- Mainly unknown function
- R for neuropeptides and neurotransmitters
- ? Production of somatostatin
- "catching" of monoamines from CSF

CC – corpus calosum OC – chiasma opticum ac – commisura anterior pc – commisura posterior AP – area postrema CP – choroid plexus ME – eminentia mediana NH – neurohypophysis OVLT – organum vasculosum laminae terminalis PI – pineal gland/epiphysis SCO – subcommissural organ SFO – subfornical organ

Anatomical and functional connection of hypothalamus and hypophysis, neuroendocrine secretion





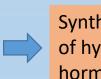
Hypothalamic hormones

Hypothalamic hormones are secreted in eminentia mediana region and enter portal circulation via fenestrations

Axons of oxytocin and ADH synthesizing neurons go through eminentia mediana region. Hormones are secreted in neurohypophysis

PIH (prolactin-inhibiting hormone) = dopamine

Environmental factors Neural stimuli Hormonal stimuli



Synthesis and secretion of hypothalamic hormones

Vasopressin
Cys-Tyr-Phe-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Arg-Gly-NH ₂ (MW = 1084.38)
Oxytocin
Cys-Tyr-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Leu-Gly-NH ₂ (MW = 1007.35)
Thyrotropin-Releasing Hormone
$pGlu-His-Pro-NH_2$ (MW = 362.42)
Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone
pGlu-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Gly-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-NH ₂ (MW = 1182.39)
Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone
Ser-Glu-Glu-Pro-Pro-Ile-Ser-Leu-Asp-Leu-Thr-Phe-His-Leu-Leu-Arg-Glu-Val-Leu-Glu- Met-Ala-Arg-Ala-Glu-Gln-Leu-Ala-Gln-Gln-Ala-His-Ser-Asn-Arg-Lys-Leu-Met-Glu-Ile- Ile-NH ₂ (MW = 4758.14)
Growth Hormone-Releasing Hormone
Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ala-Ile-Phe-Thr-Asn-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Lys-Val-Leu-Gly-Gln-Leu-Ser-Ala-Arg- Lys-Leu-Leu-Gln-Asp-Ile-Met-Ser-Arg-Gln-Gln-Gly-Glu-Ser-Asn-Gln-Glu-Arg-Gly-Ala- Arg-Ala-Arg-Leu-NH ₂ (MW = 5040.4)
Somatostatin
Ala-Gly-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Cys (MW = 1638.12)
Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide
His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys- Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn-NH, (MW = 3326.26)

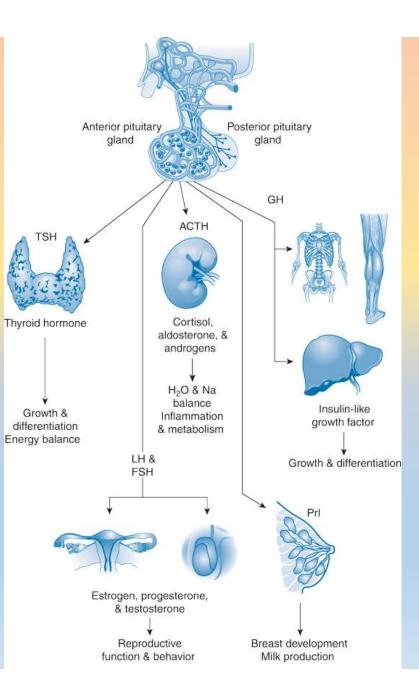
Signal integration to regulate endocrine functions and to maintain hoemeostasis

Adenohypophysis

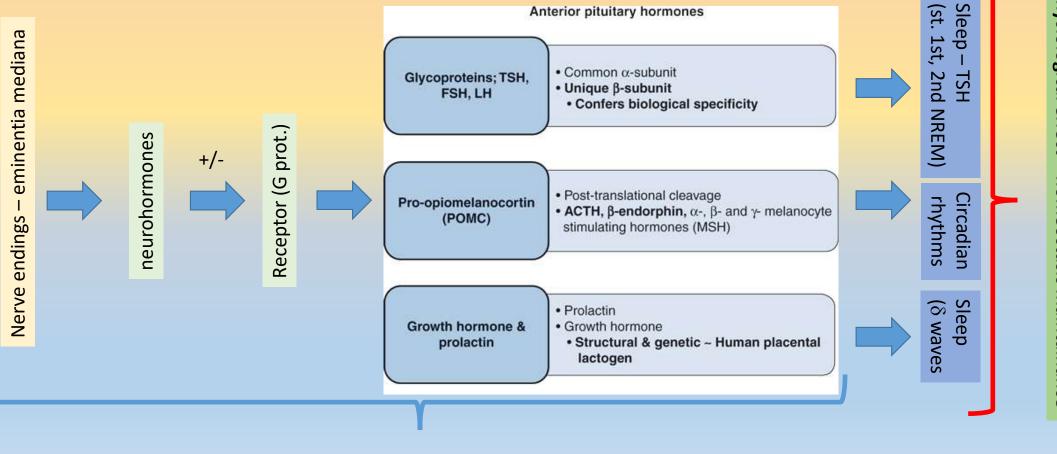
- ACTH	_	adrenocorticotropic hormone
- TSH	-	thyroid-stimulating hormone
- GH	—	growth (somatotropic) hormone
- PRL	-	prolactin
- LH	—	luteinizing hormone
- FSH	-	follicle-stimulating hormone

Adenohypophyseal cells	Represent ation	Hypothalamic hormone(s)	Adenohypophyseal hormones	Localization
Lactotropic	Up to 25 %	Dopamine	prolactin	whole AH
Cortikotropic	Ca 20 %	CRH	POMC – ACTH, β - LPH, α -MSH, β -end.	Anteromedial region
Thyreotropic	Ca 5 %	TRH	TSH	Anteromedial region
Gonadotropic	Up to 15 %	GnRH	LH/FSH	Posterolateral region
Somatotropic	Ca 40 %	GHRH/GHIH	GH	Posterolateral region

HORMONE PRODUCTION UNDER DIRECT HYPOTHALAMIC CONTROL



Adenohypophyseal hormones



Suprachiasmatic nucleus Circulating hormones Feedback system

Axis GHRH/GHIH-GH-IGF-1

GHRH, growth hormone-releasing hormone

Characteristics

- Two types present in hypothalamus
- GHRH receptor (cAMP)
- R homology with R secretin, GLP-1, glucagon, calcitonin, PTH, PTHrP

Hypothalamo-hypophyseal axis

- Fast GH secretion
- + estrogens, glucocorticoids and starvation
- - Somatostatin, age and obesity

Clinical significance

- Nowadays without clinical significance
- GHRP

Regulation of secretion

- stimulation
 - Ghrelin
 - Leptin
 - Galanin
 - GABA
 - $\alpha \text{2-adrenergic}$ and dopaminergic input
- · inhibition
 - CRH
 - $-\beta$ 2-adrenergic input

Somatostatin (GHIH, growth hormone-inhibiting hormone)

Characteristics

- Neurotransmitter – neuromodulator

Hypothalamo-hypophyseal axis

- GH secretion regulation
- TSH inhibition
- PRL and ACTH secretion inhibition

Clinical significance

- Somatostatin analogues (octreotide, lanreotide, vapreotide, seglitide, pasireotide)
- Therapy of acromegaly, TSH producing or neuroendocrine tumors
- ! Negative GIT side effects
- Imaging methods (¹¹¹In-somatostatin)
- Potential use in tumor treatment

Main effects of somatostatin

Inhibition of hormone secretion	GIT inhibition	Other
Adenohypophysis – TSH, GH, ACTH, PRL	Stomach and duodenal secretion including HCl	Inhibition of activated immune cells
GIT – gastrin, secretin, motilin, GLP-1, GIP, VIP	Stomach emptying	Inhibition of tumor growth (proliferation)
Endocrine pancreas – insulin, glucagon, (somatostatin)	Pancreatic enzymes and bicarbonates secretion	
Kidneys - renin	Bile secretion	
	Decrease of GIT blood flow	
	Stimulation of intestinal water and electrolytes absorption	

Growth hormone (GH)

Characteristics

-hGH genome – 5 products including human chorionic somatomammotropin

- -hGH-N somatotrophs 20/22 kDA
- -hGH-V placenta feedback regulation

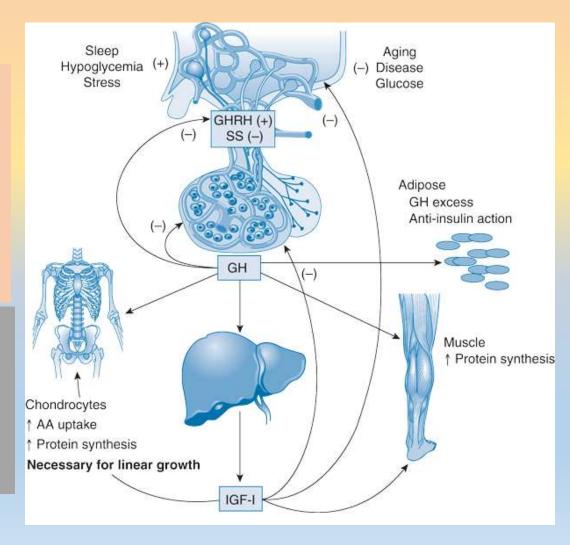
-Circulating GH:

- 20 (25 %) and 22 kDA (75 %) monomers
- Acetylated 22 kDA form
- Deaminated forms

Regulation of secretion

-GHRH, somatostatin, ghrelin, IGF-1, thyroid hormones, glucocorticoids

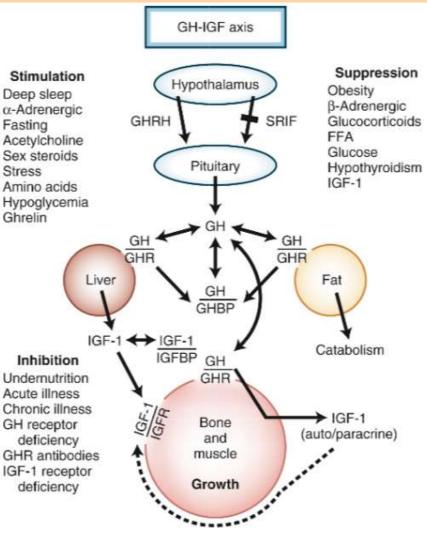
- -Relatively complicated system of regulation based on:
 - Neuropeptides
 - Neurotransmitters
 - Endogenic opioids



Growth hormone (GH) – regulation of secretion

- GHRH (continual), somatostatin (pulsatile secretion)
- Desensitization of R for GHRH
- IGF-1 somatostatin
- Ghrelin
 - GHS receptors stimulation of GHRH secretion
 - Synthesis stomach and CNS, regulation of food intake
- Diurnal rhythm with maximum during sleep (first episode of slow-wave sleep)
- Very low basal secretion, decrease with age (peak in puberty, then decrease)

Interval	Young Adult	Fasting	Obesity	Middle Age
24-h secretion (μg/24 h)	5 <mark>4</mark> 0 ± 44	2171 ± 333	77±20	196 ± 65
Secretory bursts (number in 24 h)	12 ± 1	32 ± 2	3±0.5	10 ± 1
GH burst (μg)	45 ± 4	64 ± 9	24 ± 5	10±6



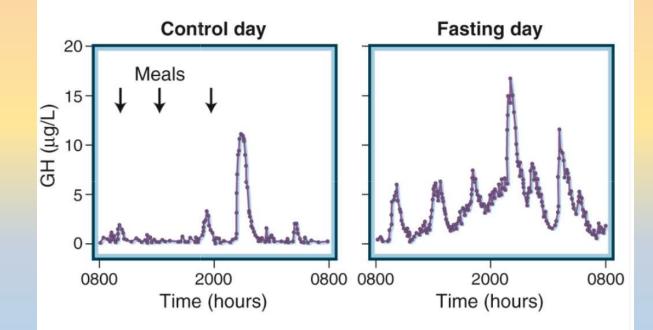
Stimulation of GH secretion

Physiological factors	Hormones and neurotransmitters	Pathological factors
Exercise	Arginin, lysin	Acromegaly
Stress (various causes)	Neuropeptides (ghrelin, GHRH, galanin, opioids – μ receptors, melatonin)	TRH, GnRH
Sleep	Neurotransmitters (agonists α 2-AR, antagonists β -AR, M1 agonists, 5-HTD1 agonists, H1 agonists)	Glu, Arg
Decrease in postprandial glycemia	GABA	IL-1, 2, 6
Starvation	Dopamine (D2R)	Protein depletion
Insulin-induced hypoglycemia	Estrogens	Starvation, anorexia nervosa
	Testosterone	Kidney failure
	Glucocorticoids (acute, not chronic)	Liver cirrhosis
		DM 1st type

Inhibition of GH secretion

Physiological factors	Hormones and neurotransmitters	Pathological factors
Postprandial hyperglycemia, glucose infusion	Somatostatin	Acromegaly
Increased FAA in plasma	Calcitonin	L-DOPA
Increased GH concentration in plasma	Neuropeptide Y	D2R agonists
Increased IGF-1 concentration in plasma	CRH	Phentolamin
REM sleep	Neurotransmitters (α 1,2-AR antagonists, β -AR agonists, H1 antagonists, serotonin receptor antagonists, nicotine cholinergic receptor agonists)	Galanin
Aging	Glucocorticoids (chronic)	Obesity
		Hypothyroidismus
		Hyperthyroidismus

Growth hormone (GH) – regulation of secretion



- Malnutrition (+)
- Obesity (-)
- Glucose (-)
- Arginine, leucine (+)
- FFA (-)
- leptin

- "jet lag"
- exercise
- physical stress including infection, sepsis

GH and interaction with other hormonal axes

ACTH – Glucocorticoids - Acute (+) – effect after ca 3 hours	TRANSPORT
- Chronic (-)	-GHBPs
	-20 kDA with low affinity
	-60 kDa with high affinity
TRH – TSH – thyroid hormones	-Obesity (+)
- Necessary for GH secretion	-Pregnancy (+)
- Hypothyroidismus (-)	-p.o. estrogens (+)
	-Malnutrition (-)
 GnRH – FSH a LH – sex hormones Testosterone (+) Estrogens (+) – only p.o. – decreased inhibition of IGF-1 + feedback 	-Cirrhosis (-) -Hypothyroidism (-) -Androgens (-) -Glucocorticoids (-)
 aromatization of androgens affects GH synthesis and secretion (paracrine effect of estrogens in CNS) 	

GH and its effects

METABOLIC

-Energetic metabolism

-Together with insulin (metabolism of sugars, fats, proteins)
-Lipolysis and FA oxidation(+) (hormone-sensitive lipase, + LDL)
-Glucose – direct or indirect effect,

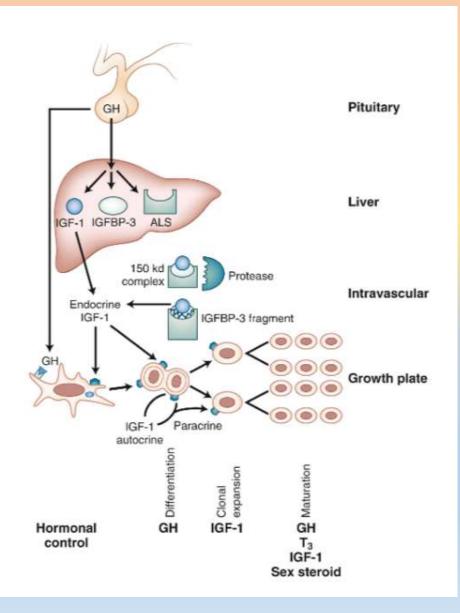
- (+) uptake of Glu
- (-) Glu oxidation
- (+) gluconeogenesis

-Proteins

- (+) anabolism, (-) urea
- (+) AA transport
- (+) incorporation of AA to proteins
- (-) protein oxidation

GROWTH

-Mediated by IGF-1 (auto-/paracrine)



GH – clinical aspects

GH deficiency – gained or congenital – often tumors or inflammation

- nonspecific symptoms (i.e. loss of energy, social isolation, loss of focus)
- myocardium changes (left ventricle)

GHR – mutation

Significance of markers (IGF-1, IGFBP3)

Substitution therapy – wide array of side-effects, contraindication – cancer

Experimental indications:

- catabolic states (i.e. extensive burns)
- osteoporosis
- HIV/AIDS
- sport medicine
- aging



Axis PIH-prolactin

PIH, prolactin-inhibiting hormone

Characteristics

- dopamine

Hypothalamo-hypophyseal axis

- Inhibition of PRL (D2R) secretion lactotropic cells
- ! Lactotrophs with continual high PRL production
- Paracrine and autocrine regulation of PRL secretion

Other functions and places of synthesis

- Blood vessels vasodilatation (physiological concentrations)
- Kidneys sodium secretion
- Endocrine pancreas decrease in insulin secretion
- GIT lower motility
- Effect of dompamine on immune system

Clinical significance

- Effect of medication on dopamine and PRL secretion
- Neurodegenerative diseases (Parkinson)
- Antipsychotics (antag.)

PROLACTIN-RELEASING FACTORS (PRF)

- TRH, oxytocin, VIP
- under specific conditions ADH, ATII, NPY, galanin, substance P, GRP, neurotensin
- prolactin-releasing peptide (PrRP) stress, satiety (other parts of CNS)
- Important feedback mechanism (short loop) of PRL secretion regulation
 - Circadian rhythm (maximum in the morning)
 - Nipple stimulation (1-3 min, peak
 10 20 min)

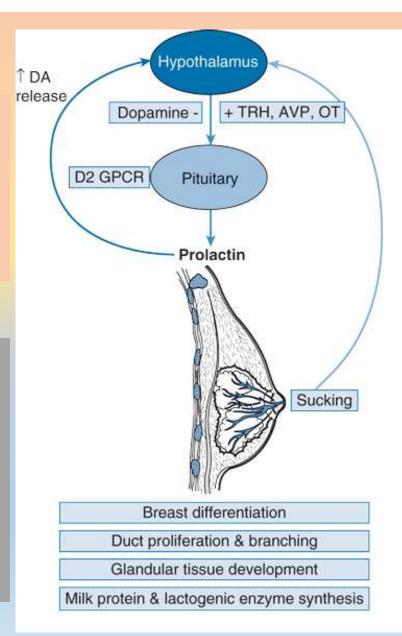
Prolactin - PRL

Characteristics

- Lactotropic cells (only PRL)
- Mammosomatotropic cells (PRL and GH)
- Hyperplasia pregnancy and lactation
- Expression regulated by estrogens, dopamine, TRH, thyroid hormones
- PRLR mammary gl., adenohypophysis, adrenal gl., liver, prostate, ovaries, testicles, small intestine, lungs, myocardium, SNS, lymphocytes

Regulation of secretion

- pulsatile secretion 4 14 pulses/day
- Highest levels during sleep (REM, nonREM)
- Lowest between 10:00 and 12:00
- Lower secretion with aging
- TIDA cells dopamine Paracrine endothelin-1, TGF-β1, calcitonin, histamine (-)
- FGF, EGF (+)
- TRH, estrogens, VIP, serotonin, GHRH in higher concentrations (+)
- Cholecystokinin ?



Prolactin - functions

Production of breast milk during pregnancy and lactation = function necessary for survival

Other functions – metabolic, melatonin synthesis, maternal behavior

Development of mammary gland and lactation

- Puberty development of mammary gland due to GH and IGF-1
- Effect of estrogens and progesterone
- At age 8 13
- During pregnancy proliferation of alveoli and production of breast milk proteins and colostrum
- During third trimester colostrum production (PRL, estrogens, progesterone, GH, IGF-1, placental hormones)
- Lactation increase of PRL after birth, without breastfeeding decrease after ca 7 days
- Accumulation of breast milk stops further production
- Role of OT

Reproductive function of PRL

- Lactation = amenorrhea and secondary infertility
- Inhibition of GnRH secretion
- Role of kisspeptin neurons (PRLR)
- Possible role of metabolic factors

Immune function of PRL

- Antiinflammatory effect ?

Clinical significance

- hyperprolactinemia drugs including some antihypertensives, chronic kidney failure
- Macroprolactinemia
- Galactorrhea role of GH (acromegaly)
- PRL deficiency

Axis GnRH-LH/FSH-gonads

GnRH, Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone, GnIH

Characteristics

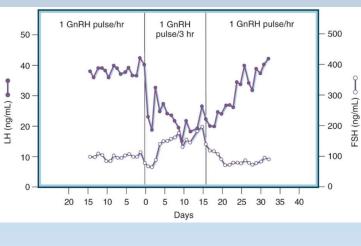
- Specific origin of GnRH neurons outside of CNS
- Downregulation malnutrition, lactation, seasonal effects, aging, continual GnRH
- Upregulation effect of GnRH on gonadotrophs (menstrual cycle)

Hypothalamo-hypophyseal axis

- FSH, LH
- Importance of GnRH pulses frequency (glycosylation)
- Menstrual cycle, puberty and its onset

Clinical significance

- Continually distributed analogues of GnRH – treatment of estrogen/steroid-dependent tumors of reproductive system
- Premature puberty treatment (leuprorelin – agonist!)



Regulation of secretion

- Inputs from various CNS regions (brain stem, limbic system)
- Inhibitory effect of sex-hormones with exception of estradiol (negative/positive feedback)
- Importance of kisspeptin for females
- Inhibitory effect of PRL
- Effect of circulating substrates (FA, Glu)
- Leptin (NPY, kisspeptin)
- Stress (various causes)
 - Acute disruption of MC without effect on fertility
 - Chronic disruption of fertility, lowering of circulating sex-hormones levels

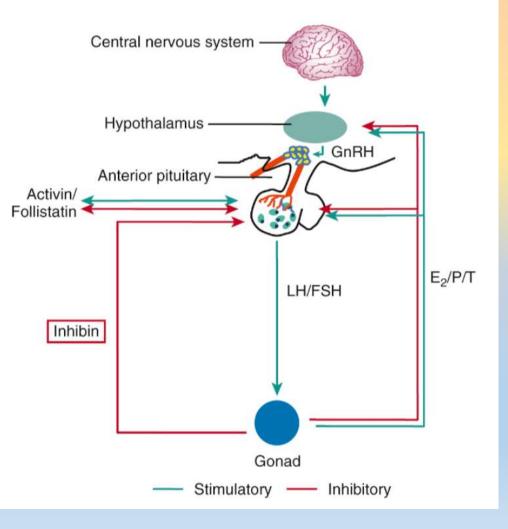
Glycoproteins – FSH a LH

Characteristics

- Heterodimer, different expression of subunits, glycosylation
- Structurally close to hCG (placenta)

Regulation of secretion

- sex hormones, local factors paracrine (activins, inhibins, follistatin)
- (+) glutamate, noradrenaline, leptin
- (-) GABA, opioids
- Key role of kisspeptins, neurokinin B and substance P in GnRH secretion – FSH/LH
- Estrogens, progesterone, androgens direct effect on gonadotrophs, indirect through GnRH
 - Estrogens (-) inhibition of transcription (α)
 - Kisspeptin stimulation of LH/FSH, GnRH
 - Estrogens (+) shift
 - Progesterone (-) influences pulsatile secretion of GnRH
 - Testosterone, estradiol (-) males, kisspeptin neurons and AR
- GnRHR Ca²⁺ mobilization
- Different half-life for circulating LH and FSH



FSH and LH functions

FEMALES

- FSH
 - Growth and development of follicular cell (maturation)
 - Biosynthesis of estradiol
 - Regulation of inhibin synthesis during follicular phase
 - Upregulation of LH receptors (preovulatory follicles)
 - Selection of dominant follicle
 - Recruitment of follicles for next cycle
- LH
 - Stimulation of estrogen synthesis (theca)
 - Oocyte maturation (preovulatory follicle)
 - Rupture of ovulatory follicle, ovulation
 - Conversion of follicle wall to corpus luteum

MALES

- LH
 - Intratesticular synthesis of testosterone (Leydig cells)
- FSH
 - Spermatogenesis (Sertoli cells)

Clinical significance

- Possible deficiency of gonadotropins
- Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
- Kallmann syndrome
- Syndrome Prader-Willi
- Reproductive dysfunction

Activins and inhibins

Inhibins – dimeric peptides ($\alpha + 1$ or two β_A or β_B)

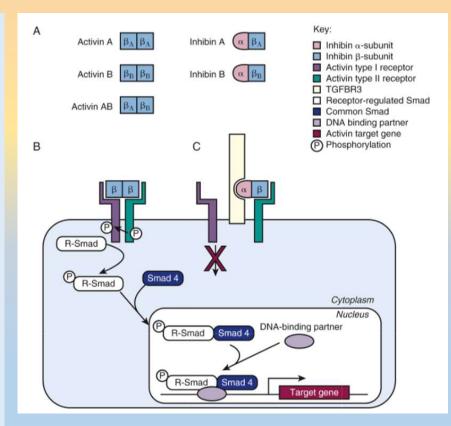
- inhibin A dominant follicle, corpus luteum
- inhibin B testes, luteal and early follicular phase of MC
- FSH inhibition

Activins

- dimeric peptides dimers of β subunits
- FSH stimulation
- autocrine/paracrine factors
- other tissues growth and differentiation

Folllistatin

- monomeric polypeptide
- FSH inhibition
- "supplementary" regulation of FSH and LH secretion



Hormones of hypothalamus secreted by neurohypophysis

Neurohypophysis

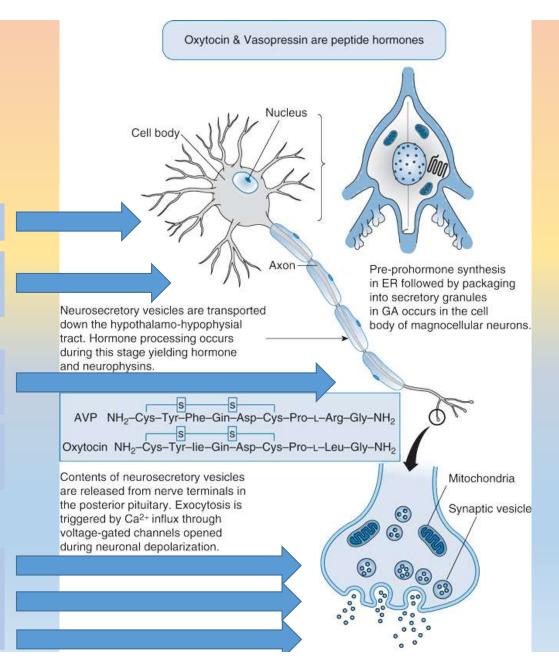
Synthesis - magnocellular neurons (SON, PVN)

Precursor protein (signal peptide, hormone, neurophysin 2, glycopeptide copeptin)

Posttranslational modification – ADH/OT + neurophysins + copeptin

Neurophysins – importance – ADH transport and secretion

Termination (neurohypophysis, eminentia mediana) Secretion – voltage-gated Ca²⁺ channels Circulation – free, elimination – kidneys, liver



Oxytocin PVN & SON Fear, pain, noise, fever Posterior pituitary Stretch of cervix End of pregnancy Oxytocin release Myoepithelial cell contraction & milk ejection Suckling of Uterine lactating breast contraction

Characteristics

- Mechanoreceptors/tactile receptors
 - endogenous opioids, NO, GABA (-)
 - Prolactin, relaxin (-), Estrogens (+)
- Works together with prolactin and sex hormones

Functions

- Lactation (under 1 min)
- Childbirth
 - rhythmical contractions of smooth muscles (gapjunction, stimulation of prostaglandin synthesis – extracellular matrix)
 - postpartum bleeding, uterus involution
- Ejaculation (males)
- Behavior

Other functions and places of synthesis

- CNS
 - Stimulation of ACTH secretion through CRH
 - Stimulation of ADH/induced vasoconstriction
 - Stimulation of prolactin secretion
 - Memory traces recollection inhibition
 - Maternal behavior

Clinical significance

Oxytocin analogues

Antidiuretic hormone (ADH, vasopresin, AVP)

Characteristics

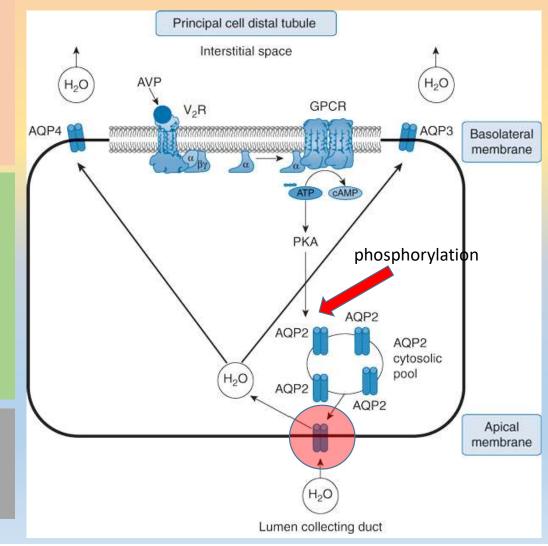
- receptors (G protein)
 - $V_1R V_{1a}(G_{q/11})$ liver, smooth muscles, CNS, adrenal glands only ligand ADH
 - $V_2 R (G_s) kidneys$
 - $V_{3}R V_{1b}(G_{q/11})$ corticotropic cells (CNS), kidneys, thymus, heart, lungs, pancreas, uterus

Function

- Water reabsorption (distal tubule, collecting tubule) tubular system with different water permeability in different parts
 - AQP1 proximal tubule, HL descending limb HK 90 % of water reabsorption
 - AQP2 collecting tubule (only ADH; acute X chronic effect)
 - AQP3, AQP4
- Vasoconstriction (hemorrhagic shock, sepsis)

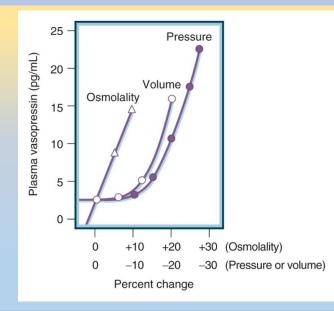
Other functions and places of synthesis

- CNS increased recollection of memory traces
- Periphery stimulation production of factor VIII and von Willebrand factor

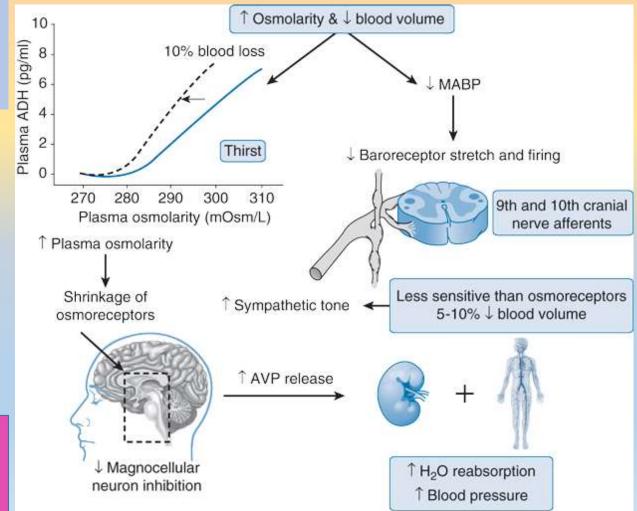


ADH - regulation of secretion

- Osmotic regulation
- Regulation volume-pressure
- Predominantly inhibitory effect of R on magnocellular N



ADH is the main hormone regulating water homeostasis and osmolality, RAAS is the main regulatory system of blood volume and pressure.



ADH – clinical aspects

Diabetes insipidus (DI)

- Primary polydipsia
- Decreased ADH synthesis/secretion (ADH gene) (neurogenic)
- Decreased kidney sensitivity (nephrogenic)

SIADH – Syndrome of Inappropriate Antidiuretic Hormone Secretion

- Increased ADH synthesis/secretion
- Absence of physiological ADH secretion stimuli

Absence of thirst after osmotic stimulation

Ethanol lowers ADH secretion

