

Region/Area	Hormones	Targets	Hormonal Effects	Hypothalamic Regulatory Hormones
ANTERIOR PITUITARY (ADENOHYPHYSIS) Pars distalis	Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH)	Thyroid gland	Secretion of thyroid hormones	Thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH)
	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)	Adrenal cortex (fasciculata)	Glucocorticoid secretion	Corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH)
	<i>Gonadotropic hormones:</i>			
	Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)	Follicle cells of ovaries Sustentacular cells of testes	Estrogen secretion, follicle development Sperm maturation	Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH)
	Luteinizing hormone (LH) or interstitial cell-stimulating hormone (ICSH)	Follicle cells of ovaries Interstitial cells of testes	Ovulation, formation of corpus luteum, progesterone secretion Testosterone secretion	As above As above
	Prolactin (PRL)	Mammary glands	Production of milk	Prolactin-inhibiting hormone (PIH) Prolactin-releasing factor (PRF)
	Growth hormone (GH)	All cells	Growth, protein synthesis, lipid mobilization and catabolism	Growth hormone-releasing hormone (GH-RH) Growth hormone-inhibiting hormone (GH-IH)
Pars intermedia (not active in normal adults)	Melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH)	Melanocytes	Increased melanin synthesis in epidermis	Melanocyte-stimulating hormone-inhibiting hormone (MSH-IH)
POSTERIOR PITUITARY (NEUROHYPHYSIS OR PARS NERVOSA)	Antidiuretic hormone (ADH)	Kidneys	Reabsorption of water, elevation of blood volume and pressure	Transported over axons from supraoptic nucleus
	Oxytocin (OT)	Uterus, mammary glands (female) Prostate gland (male)	Labor contractions, milk ejection Prostatic contractions	Transported over axons from paraventricular nucleus