

Module 4:Hormone-Behaviour Relationship

Lecture 17: Endocrine glands and the nature of their secretions

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Lecture 17:Endocrine glands and the nature of their secretions

Human body has endocrine as well as exocrine glands. The endocrine glands are ductless glands and hence release their secretion directly into the blood stream. These secretions are called hormones. The nervous and endocrine systems work in coordination and their interplay heavily influences ones behaviour. The animation given below illustrates the location of various endocrine glands in our body.

See video on web

The chemically sensitive body and the electrochemical nature of impulse transmission make hormones extremely important. Hormones have bidirectional influence; they increase or decrease certain behaviours. Hence, it is important for the students of psychology to understand the hormone-behaviour relationship. Endocrine glands, neurotransmitters and immune system are interconnected and change in one influences the other. The table given below summarizes different hormones secreted by various endocrine glands.

Endocrine Glands	Hormones Secreted
Hypothalamus	Thyrotropin-releasing hormone Dopamine Growth hormone-releasing hormone Somatostatin Gonadotropin-releasing hormone Corticotropin-releasing hormone Oxytocin Vasopressin
Pituitary Gland	
Anterior pituitary	Growth hormone Thyroid-stimulating hormone Adrenocorticotrophic hormone Follicle-stimulating hormone Luteinizing hormone Prolactin Interstitial cell stimulating hormone
Posterior pituitary	Oxytocin Anti-diuretic hormone/ Vasopressin
Intermediate pituitary	Melanocyte-stimulating hormone
Pineal gland	Melatonin
Thyroid	Thyroxine (T4) Triiodothyronine (T3)
Parathyroid gland	Parathyroid hormone (PTH)
Pancreas	Glucagon Insulin
Gonads	Estrogen Progesterone Testosterone

The secretions of these endocrine glands affect our bodily processes. Endocrinology literature largely talks about these physiological effects. Besides describing these physiological mechanisms and their regulation the present unit will also elaborate the psychological impact of the respective hormones.

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