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Q: WHY DO VERTEBRATES HAVE AN ENDOCRINE SYSTEM?

A: ALTHOUGH IT ALLOWS EXTREMELY RAPID COMMUNICATION THE "HARD WIRING" OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IS TOO "EXPENSIVE", INEFFICIENT (AND UNNECCESARY) FOR THE DELIVERY OF MOLECULAR SIGNALS TO EVERY CELL IN THE BODY. THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM, WHICH IS MOSTLY DEVOTED TO TRANSPORTING OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS, CAN ALSO PROVIDE A HIGHLY EFFICIENT, BUT RELATIVELY SLOW SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING "SOLUBLE" MESSENGER MOLECULES TO ESSENTIALLY EVERY CELL IN THE BODY.

HOWEVER TO ENSURE FIDELITY AND SPECIFICITY OF THE SIGNALLING PROCESS THESE "SOLUBLE MESSENGERS" MUST BE GUIDED TO THE CORRECT DESTINATION BY A "MOLECULAR ADDRESS"







| STRUCTURE & FUNCTION OF MAJOR HORMONES | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|--|--|
| HORMONE | M.W. | CHEMICAL STRUCTURE | MAJOR FUNCTION | |
| TRIIODOTHYRONINE (T3) THYROXINE (T4) | <1000 <1000 | IODINATED TYROSINE DERIVATIVES | GROWTH, METABOLISM & DEVELOPMENT | |
| STEROIDS | <1000 | CHOLESTEROL DERIVATIVES | | |
| ARG-VASOPRESSIN (ADH) | ~1000 | | ANTI-DIURETIC HORMONE | |
| OXYTOCIN | ~1000 | (3-3) EIRRED CTCEIC NORAFEFTIDES | SUCKLING RESPONSE | |
| GLUCAGON | ~3,500 | 29-RESIDUE PEPTIDE | PLASMA GLUCOSE | |
| CALCITONIN | ~4,000 | 32-RESIDUE PEPTIDE | PLASMA Ca | |
| ADRENOCORICOTROPHIC HORMONE (ACTH) | 4,500 | 39-RESIDUE PEPTIDE DERIVED FROM 31K POMC PRECURSOR | STIMULATES RELEASE OF CORTICAL STEROIDS | |
| INSULIN | 6,000 | 51-RESIDUE PEPTIDE WITH (S-S)-LINKED A AND B CHAINS | PLASMA GLUCOSE | |
| PARATHYROID HORMONE | 9,500 | 84-RESIDUE PEPTIDE | PLASMA CALCIUM | |
| PROLACTIN (PRL) | 23,000 | 198 /191 RESIDUE GLYCOPROTEINS WITH | LACTOGENESIS | |
| GROWTH HORMONE (GH) | 22,000 | ~ 80% HOMOLOGY | GROWTH / METABOLISM | |
| THYROID-STIMULATING HORMONE (TSH) | 28,000 | GLYCOPROTEINS WITH: | STIMULATES RELEASE OF T3 AND T4 | |
| LUTEINZING HORMONE (LH) | 30,000 | | REGULATION OF | |
| FOLLICLE-STIMULATING HORMONE (FSH) | 30,000 | AND VARIABLE BETA SUBUNIT | SPERMATOGENESIS AND OOGENESIS | |
| CHORIONIC GONADOTROPHIN (hCG) | 57,000 | LEPTIN: 16kDa 139-RESIDUE PEPTIDE | MAINTENANCE OF CORPUS LUTEUM | |

| CELL SURFACE RECEPTO | ORS AND THEIR TRANSDUCERS: GROUP I | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| RECEPTOR / HORMONE | MAJOR TRANSDUCERS | | |
| _1, _2, _3 - ADRENERGIC | G PROTEIN : CYCLASE | | |
| _1- ADRENERGIC | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |
| _2- ADRENERGIC | G PROTEIN : PLC AND CYCLASE | | |
| M1- MUSCARINIC | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |
| D2-DOPAMINERGIC | G PROTEIN : PLC AND CYCLASE | | |
| HISTAMINE | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |
| BRADYKININ | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |
| ANGIOTENSIN | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |
| VASOPRESSIN | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |
| GLUCAGON | G PROTEIN : AND CYCLASE | | |
| CALCITONIN | G PROTEIN : AND CYCLASE | | |
| PARATHYROID HORMONE | G PROTEIN : AND CYCLASE | | |
| PROSTAGLANDIN E2 | G PROTEIN : AND CYCLASE | | |
| LEUKOTRIENES | G PROTEIN : PLC | | |

| CELL SURFACE RECEPTORS TRANSDU | CELL SURFACE RECEPTORS TRANSDUCERS AND MESSENGERS?: GROUP II | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| RECEPTOR / HORMONE | MAJOR TRANSDUCERS | | | |
| THROMBOXANE A2 | G PROTEIN : PLC | | | |
| THYROTROPIN-RELEASING HORMONE (TRH) | G PROTEIN : PLC | | | |
| THYROID-STIMULATING HORMONE (TSH) | G PROTEIN : CYCLASE | | | |
| FOLLICLE-STIMULATING HORMONE (FSH) | G PROTEIN : CYCLASE | | | |
| LUTEINIZING HORMONE (LH) | G PROTEIN : CYCLASE | | | |
| EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR (EGF) | RECEPTOR TYROSINE KINASE: PLC | | | |
| PLATELET-DERIVED GROWTH FACTOR (PDGF) | RECEPTOR TYROSINE KINASE; PLC | | | |
| INSULIN | RECEPTOR TYROSINE KINASE; IRS-1 | | | |
| INSULIN -LIKE GROWTH FACTOR 1 (IGF-1) | RECEPTOR TYROSINE KINASE; IRS-1 | | | |
| GROWTH HORMONE (GH) | NON-RECEPTOR TYROSINE KINASE; JAK/Stat | | | |
| PROLACTIN (PRL) | NON-RECEPTOR TYROSINE KINASE; JAK/Stat | | | |
| ACTIVIN/INHIBIN (TGFFAMILY) | RECEPTOR Ser/Thr KINASE:Smad | | | |











































| DOMAIN | NAME | MOTIF RECOGNIZED |
|--------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| | | |
| src homology 2 | SH2 | pY-X-X-X |
| phosphotyrosine-binding" | PTB | N-P-X-pY- |
| src homology 3 | SH3 | "proline-rich region" |
| Pleckstrin Homology | PH | PI-P _x headgroups |

| PROTEIN | ARRANGEMENT OF BINDING DOMAINS |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| PROTEIN | AND CATALYTIC SITES |
| src kinase | MyrSH3SH3SH2Tyr kinase |
| Btk | PHProSH3SH2Tyr kinase |
| Shc | PTBSH2- ('Collagen-like') |
| Grb-2 | SH3SH2SH3 |
| Shp-2 (<i>Syp</i>) | SH2SH2PTPase |
| PLCα | ? |
| PLCβ | PHPLC |
| PLCγ | PHPLCSH2SH2SH3PLC |
| PLCð | PHPLCPLC |
| РКВ | PH Ser/Thr kinase |
| p120Ras-GAP | SH2SH3SH2PHGAP |

































| HORMONAL REGULATION OF METABOLISM | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | LIPOLYSIS | PROTEIN DEGRADATION | GLUCOSE SYNTHESIS | LIVER GLYCOGEN | PLASMA GLUCOSE |
| INSULIN | Ļ | Ļ | ţ | Ť | Ļ |
| CORTISOL | Ť | t | Ť | Ť | t |
| GLUCAGON | t | •••• | t | Ļ | t |
| GROWTH HORMONE | t | Ļ | Ť | ţ | t |
| CATECHOLAMINES | 1 | | ↑ (α-1) | ↓ (β) | β |
| LEPTIN | ↑ ? | | | | 1 |



















| BINDING AFFINITIES OF STEROIDS TO PLASMA PROTEINS | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------|--|--|
| HORMONE | CORTISOL BINDING PROTEIN (CBP) | SEX HORMONE BINDING GLOBULIN (SHBG) | ALBUMIN | | |
| CORTISOL | 76 | 1.6 | 0.003 | | |
| CORTISONE | 7.8 | 2.7 | 0.005 | | |
| ESTRADIOL | 0.06 | 680 | 0.06 | | |
| PREGNENOLONE | 0.18 | 14 | 0.06 | | |
| PROGESTERONE | 24 | 8.8 | 0.06 | | |
| 17OH-PROGESTERONE | 55 | 9.9 | 0.4 | | |
| TESTOSTERONE | 5.3 | 1600 | 0.04 | | |









| THYROID HORMONES | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HORMONE | RELATIVE POTENCY | PRODUCTION (µg/day) | PLASMA CONCENTRATION (µg/dL) | BOUND TO PLASMA PROTEINS (%) | t_ (days) | |
| T ₄ | + | 80- 90 | 8 | 99.95 | 6-7 | |
| T ₃ | **** | 4-8 (24) [*] | 0.3 | 99.7 | 1-3 | |
| rT ₃ | - | 2-3 (27) * | 0.04 | 99.8 | 0.1 | |
| rT ₃ | - | 2-3 (27) * | 0.04 | 99.8 | (| |









CALCITONIN IS SECRETED FROM THE THYROID PARAFOLLICULAR CELLS

BUT IS CALCITONIN AN IMPORTANT PHYSIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE?

The observation that calcitonin (CT) at supraphysiological doses is hypocalcenic, led to the mistaken conclusion that it was important for calcium homeostasis and this idea has persisted to this day. Despite these findings there is no readily apparent pathology due to CT excess or deficiency and there is no evidence that circulating CT is of substantial benefit to any mammal.......

Mammalian CT at physiological doses is not essential and very likely the CT gene has survived because of the gene's alternate mRNA pathway to produce calcitonin-gene-related peptide found in neural tissues.

HIRSCH, PF and BARUCH H, ENDOCRINE 2003, 201-208