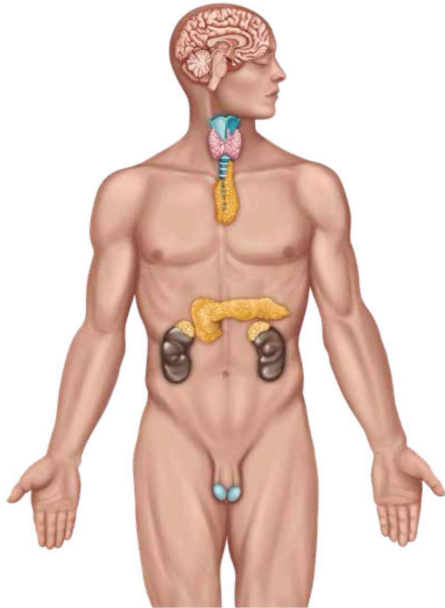


Endocrine System: Overview

All of our body's metabolic activities are controlled by the endocrine system, a group of unique structures called glands.

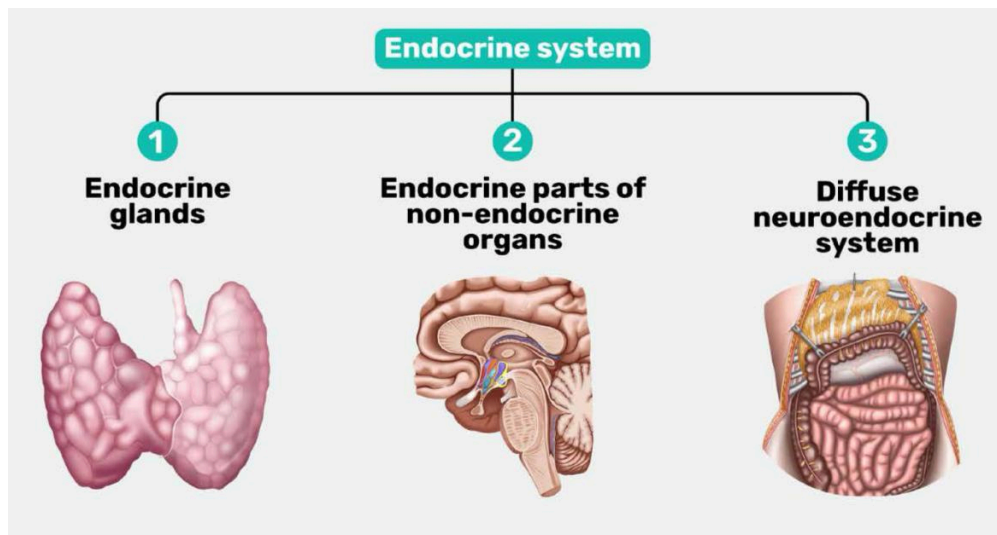


Hormones are chemicals produced by these glands that travel to the appropriate target organs to exert their effects.



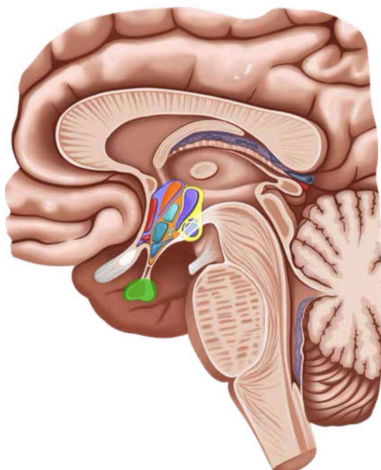
Hormones work in tandem with the nervous system to control a variety of bodily functions, including growth, metabolism, body temperature, and reproduction.

Endocrine glands, endocrine components of non-endocrine organs, and individual cells found in several organs that make up the diffuse neuroendocrine system comprise the endocrine system.

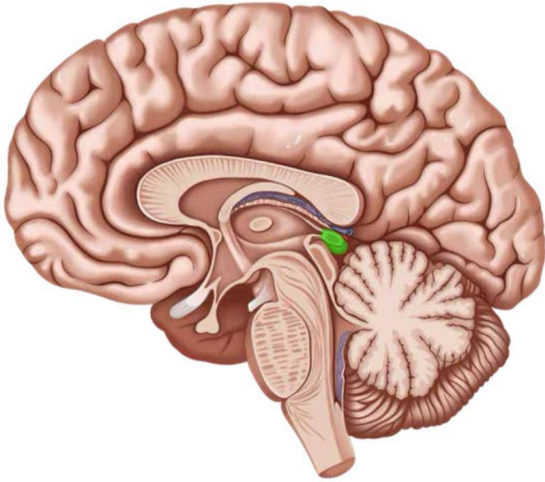


Among the endocrine glands are:

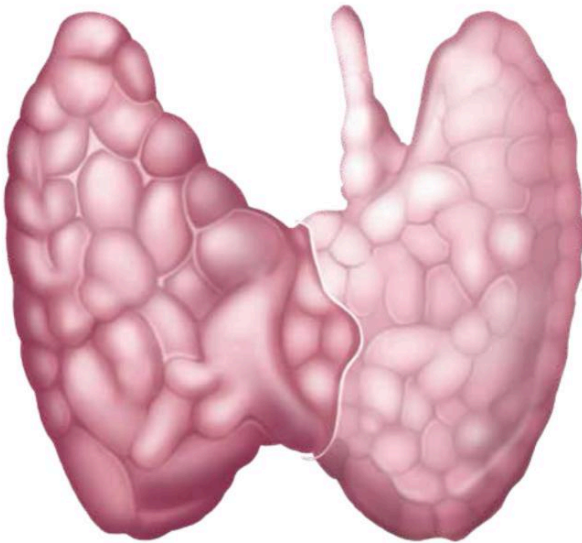
- Pituitary gland (hypophysis)



- Pineal gland (glandula pinealis)



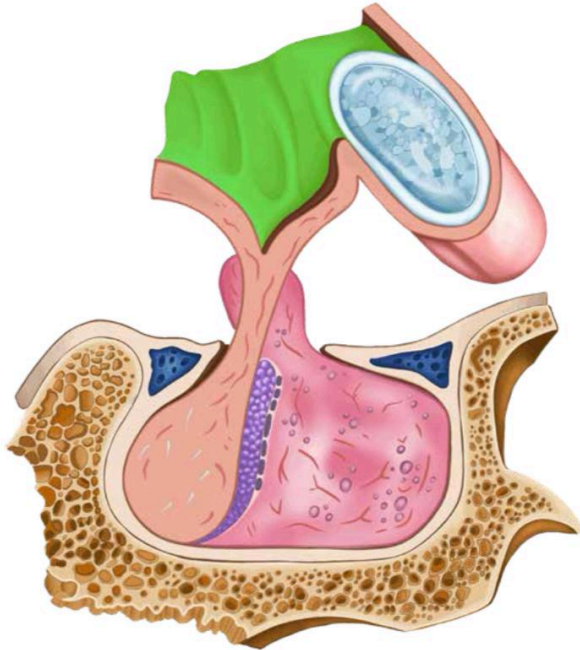
- Thyroid gland (glandula thyroidea)



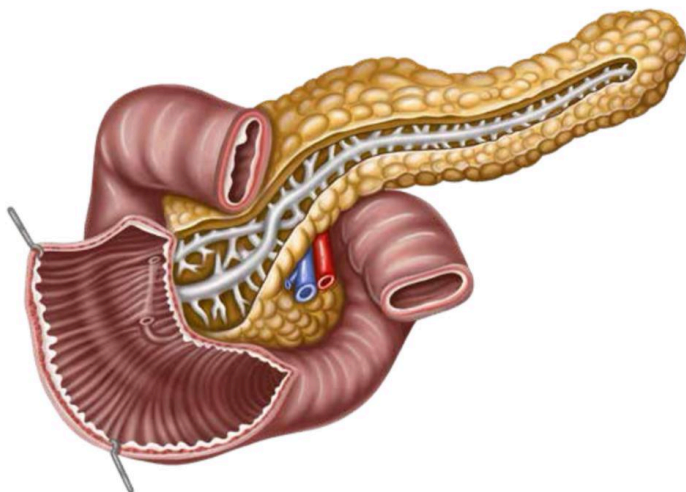
- Parathyroid glands (glandulae parathyroideae)
- Adrenal glands (glandulae suprarenales)

Non-endocrine organs' endocrine components include:

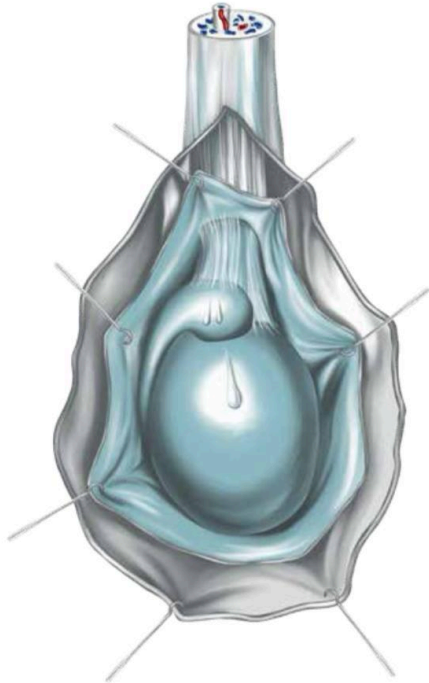
- Endocrine nuclei of the hypothalamus (hypothalamus)



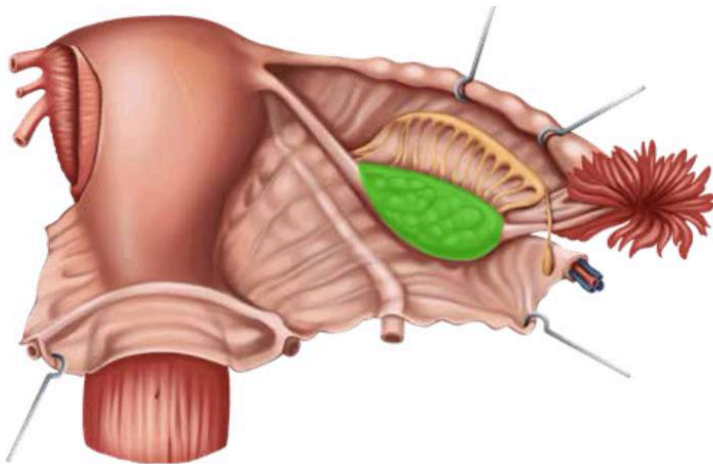
- Pancreatic islets of Langerhans



- Endocrine cells of the testes (testes) and ovaries (ovaria)

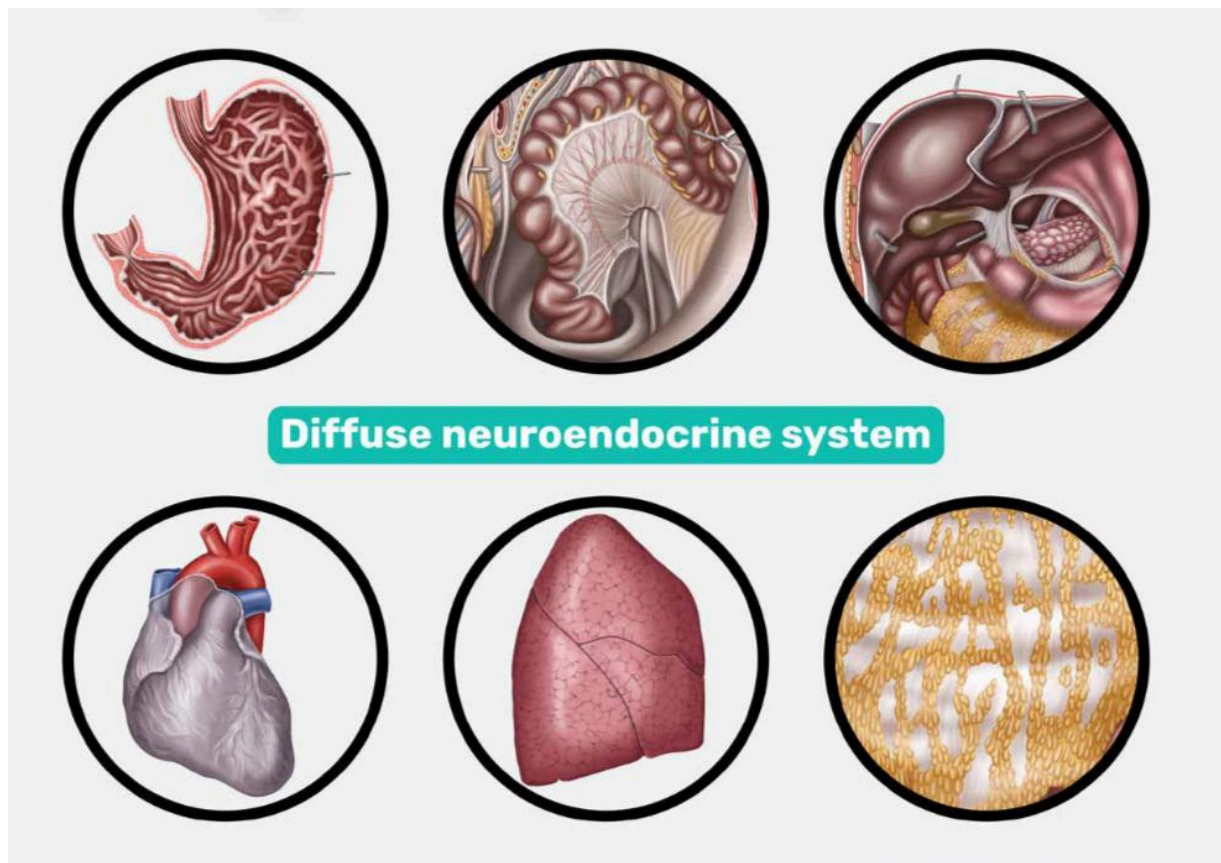


Testis | testicle



Ovary

Individual cells found in the stomach, intestines, liver, heart, lungs, thymus, and adipose tissue are all part of the diffuse neuroendocrine system.



Because it regulates the activity of peripheral glands, the hypothalamus is regarded as the key organ of the endocrine system.

According to their chemical makeup, hormones can be:

- Protein hormones;
- Steroid hormones (derived from cholesterol);
- Hormones formed from amino acids

