Course: Endocrinology

Hormones

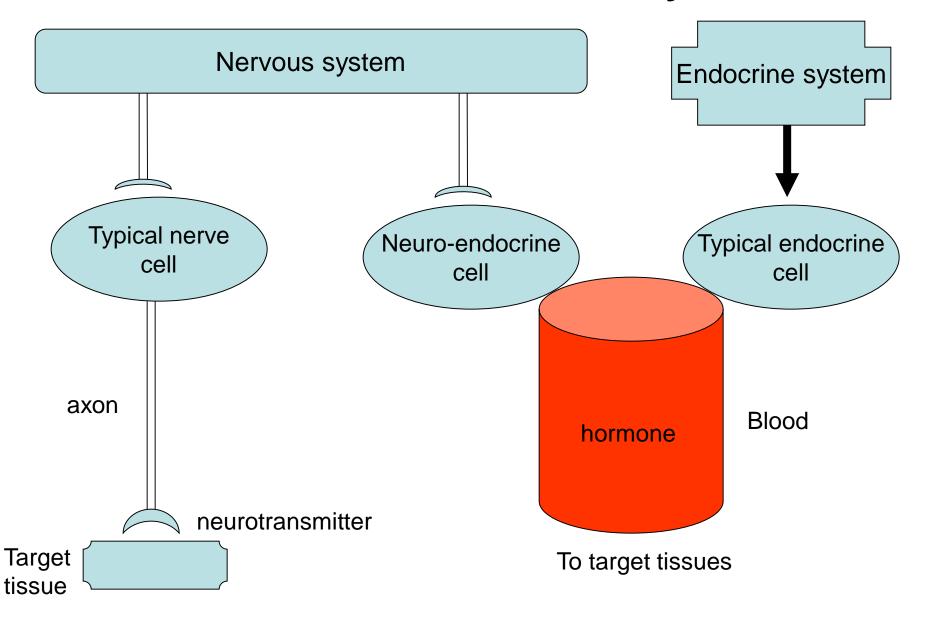
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Definitions

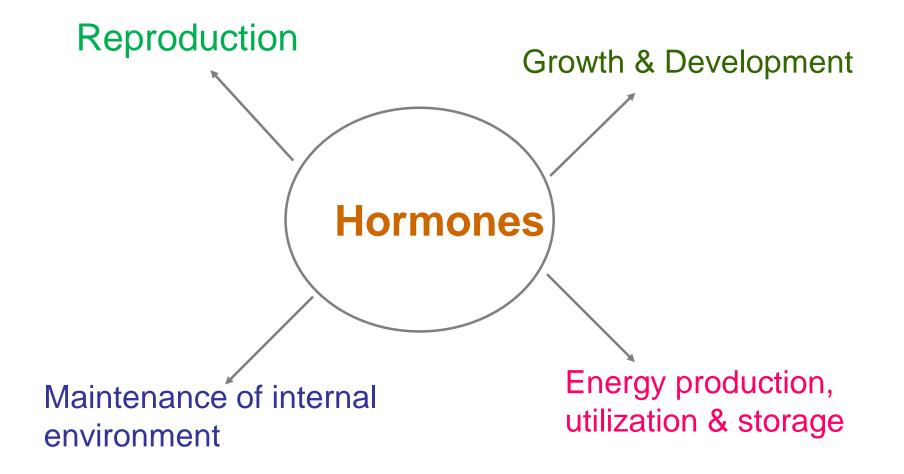
- Endocrine Refers to the internal secretion of biologically active substances.
- Exocrine Refers to secretion outside the body, for example, through sweat glands, mammary glands, or ducts lead to the gastrointestinal.
- Hormone Substances released by an endocrine gland and transported through the bloodstream to another tissue where it acts to regulate functions in the target tissue (classic definition).
 - Paracrine Hormones that act locally on cells that did not produce them.
 - Autocrine Hormones that act on cells that produced them.
- Receptors -Hormones bind to receptors molecules on cells.

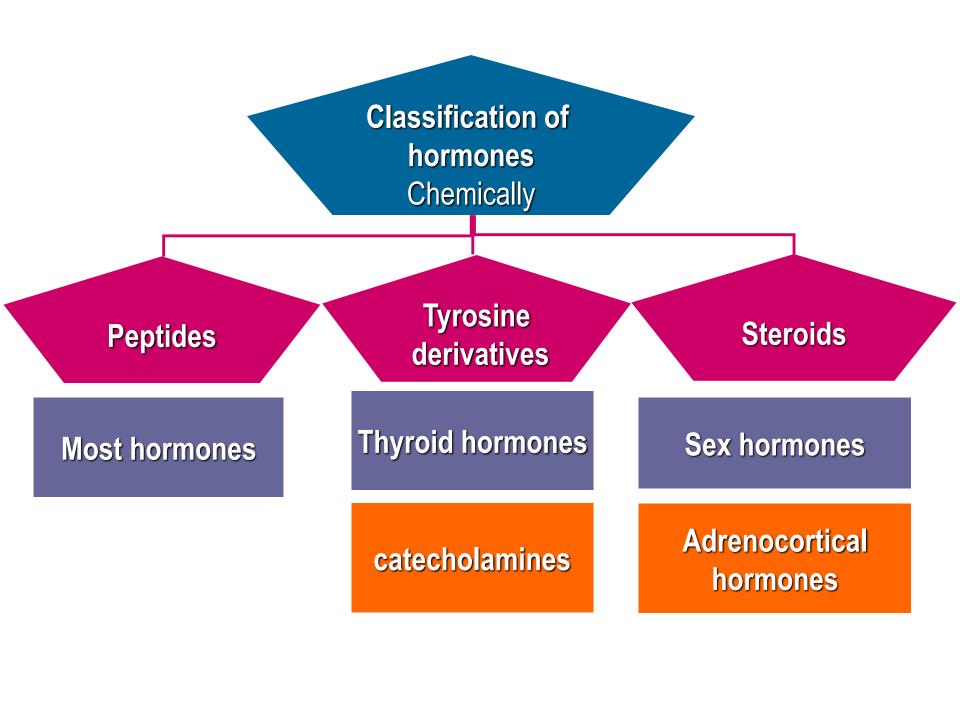
 A receptor must specifically recognize the hormone from the numerous other molecules in the blood and transmit the hormone binding information into a cellular specific action.

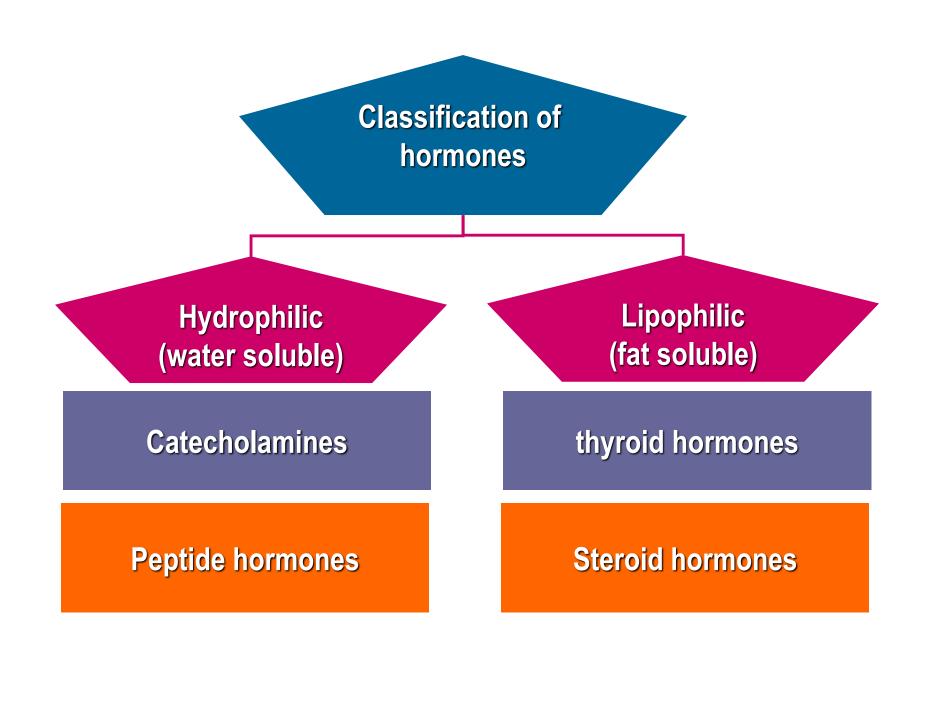
Nervous vs. endocrine systems

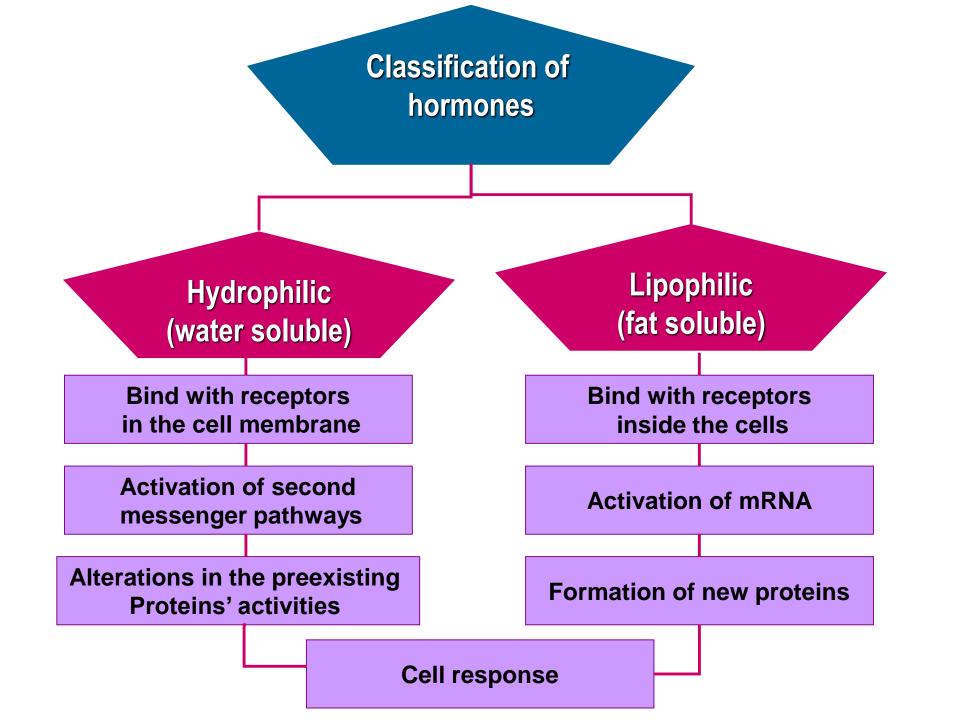


The four primary areas of hormone action









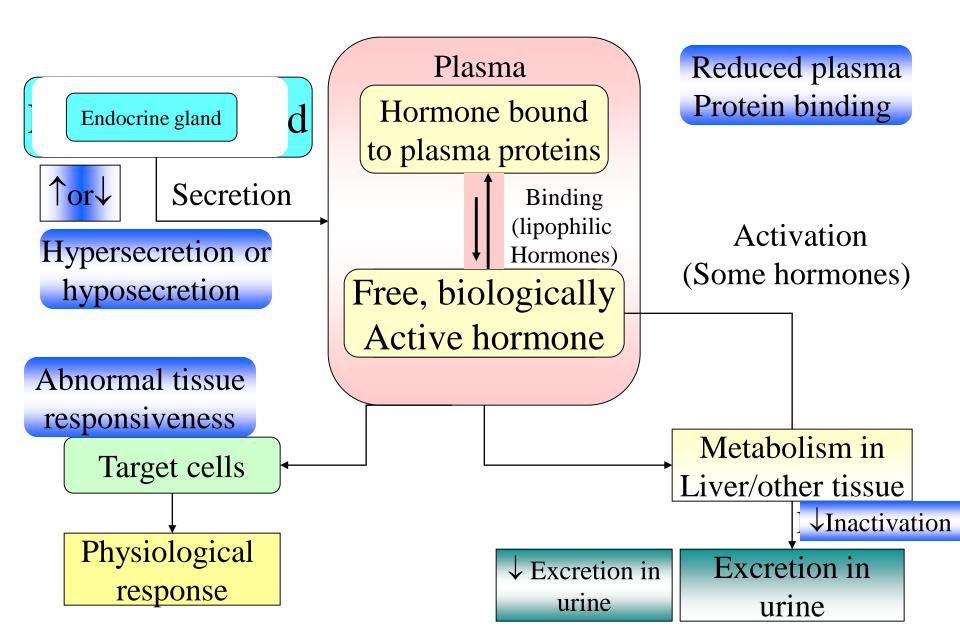
Tropic and non-tropic hormones

- Tropic (to nourish) Hormone: It is primary function to regulate the hormone secretion by another endocrine glands. e.g. Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)
- Non-tropic hormone: It affects non endocrine target tissues, e.g. thyroid hormone.

Functions of endocrine glands (hormones)

- > Regulating metabolism
- Regulating water and electrolyte balance
- > promoting growth and development
- > Controlling reproduction
- Regulating blood cell production
- Controlling activities of different systems

Means by which endocrine disorders can arise



Endocrine disorders

Hyposecretion

Primary
due to fault in
the gland or
Secondary
due to tropic
hormone

insufficiency

Hypersecretion

Primary
due to fault in
the gland or
secondary
due to tropic
hormone
excess

Abnormal response of target cells

Usually due to receptor deficiency in the target cell

Hormone Receptors and Signal Transduction

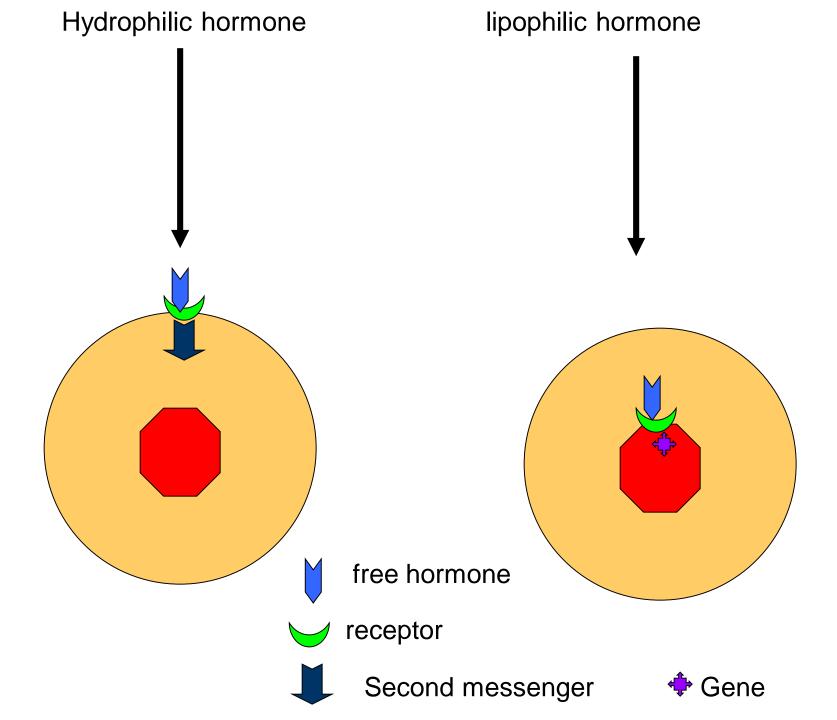
Hormone Receptors

Nuclear receptors estrogens

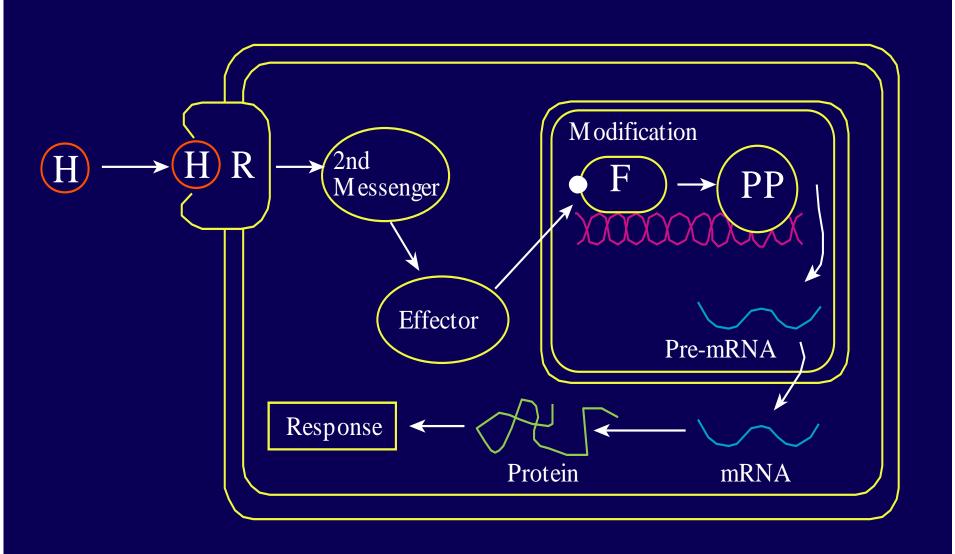
Cytoplasmic receptors

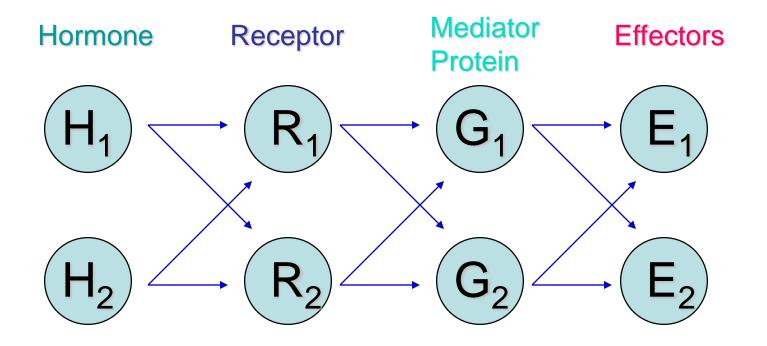
Most steroid and thyroid hormones

Cell surface membrane receptors
Polypeptide hormones and
catecholamines



Regulation of transcription by hormones through cell surface receptors





Possible pathways of transmission of hormonal signal. Each hormone can work through one or more receptors; each hormone-receptor complex can work through one or more mediator proteins (either G proteins or other signaling mechanism), and each mediating protein or enzyme activated by hormone-receptor complexes can affect one or more effectors functions.

Primary messengers:

- Hormones,
- Humoral factors histamine,
- Growth factors IGF, EGF, NGF,
- Neurotransmitters dopamine, Ach,
- Limfokines IL,
- Drugs.

Secondary messengers

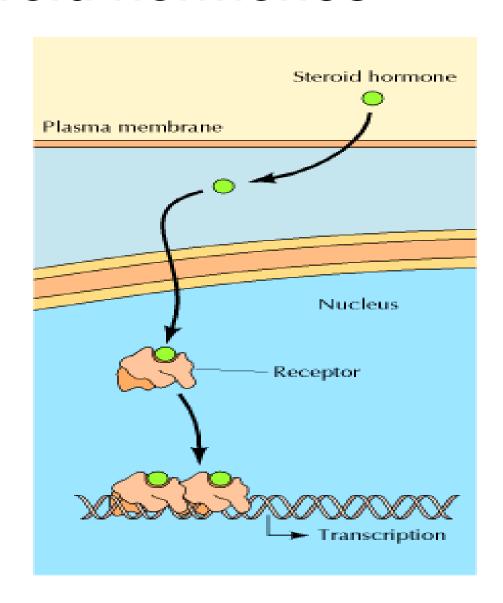
- They mediate the intracellular effects of a hormone.
- There are three basic types of secondary messenger molecules:
- Hydrophobic molecules: water-insoluble molecules, like diacylglycerol, IP3, and phosphatidylinositols, which are membrane-associated and diffuse from the plasma membrane into the juxtamembrane space where they can reach and regulate membrane-associated effector proteins.
- Hydrophilic molecules: water-soluble molecules, like cAMP, cGMP, and Ca2+, that are located within the cytosol.
- Gases: nitric oxide (NO) and carbon monoxide (CO), which can diffuse both through cytosol and across cellular membranes.

Intracellular Receptors for steroid and thyroid hormones

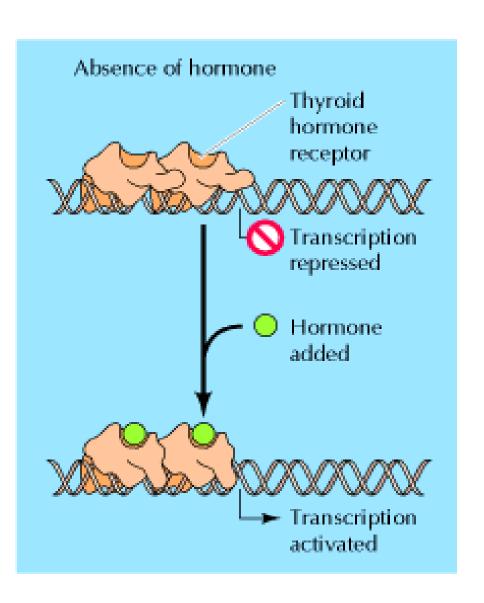
- Receptors located in the nucleus or cytoplasm.
- 2. They are hormone-regulated transcription factors.
- 3. They are proteins.
- Hormone-receptor complex is translocated to chromatin and binds to it.

Action of steroid hormones

- The steroid hormones diffuse across the plasma membrane and bind to nuclear receptors, which directly stimulate transcription of their target genes.
- The steroid hormone receptors bind DNA as dimers



Gene regulation by the thyroid hormone receptor



- Thyroid hormone receptor binds DNA in either the presence or absence of hormone.
- However, hormone binding changes the function of the receptor from a repressor to an activator of target gene transcription.