



Motivational Corner:

“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.”



Objectives:

By the end of this lecture, the student should be able to describe:

- 1- The microscopic structure of the different parts of the pituitary gland in correlation with their functions.
- 2-The hypophyseal portal circulation; components and significance.

Please check out the [editing file](#) before starting the lecture.

1-

Pituitary gland.

Extra notes: Gray

Important notes: Red





PITUITARY GLAND

The **pituitary gland (Hypophysis Cerebri)** is called the master gland because it controls several other hormone glands in your body, including the thyroid, adrenals, ovaries and testicles. It is about the size of a pea and is situated in a bony hollow, just behind the bridge of your nose (sphenoid bone). It is attached to the base of your brain (hypothalamus) by a thin neuronal stalk.

The **hypothalamus**, which controls the pituitary by sending messages, is situated immediately above the pituitary gland.

COMPONENTS

ADENOHYPOPHYSIS CEREBRI (anterior)

NEUROHYPOPHYSIS CEREBRI (posterior)

1- **Pars Distalis (pars anterior).**

1- Infundibulum: Neural (Infundibular) Stalk (stem).

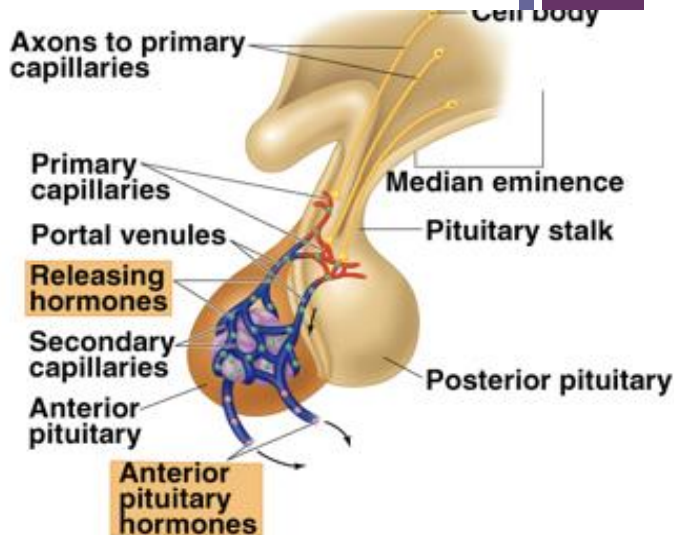
Pars = part

2- Pars Tuberalis.

2- Median eminence.

3- Pars Intermedia.

3- **Pars Nervosa.**



BLOOD SUPPLY

Superior Hypophyseal Arteries (Right & Left):

Inferior hypophyseal Arteries (Right & Left):

Supplies **median eminence of hypothalamus & Neural stalk.**

Supplies **pars nervosa.**

(**Hypophyseal Portal System**): It carries neurohormones from median eminence to adenohypophysis.

They are **Not participating** in hypophyseal portal circulation.

(Portal mean the blood pass through **two types of capillaries.**)

1ry capillary plexus of **fenestrated capillaries** → **Hypophyseal portal Veins** (or venules) → **2ry capillary** plexus of capillaries in **adenohypophysis**

Neurons of these structures manufacture antidiuretic hormone and oxytocin, respectively, which are released by synaptic terminals at capillaries in the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland

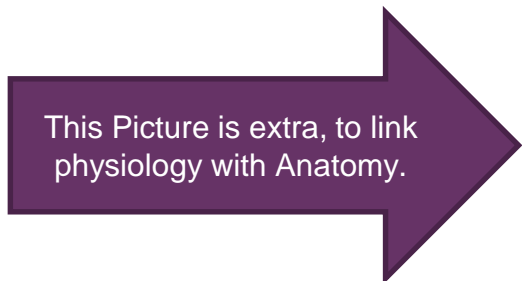
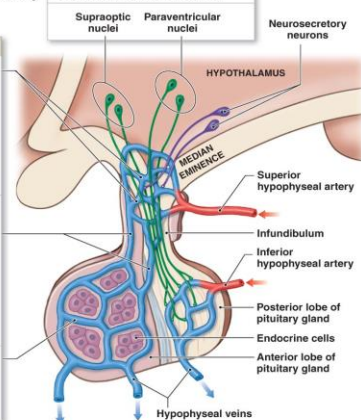
Control of the production of anterior pituitary hormones by hypothalamic regulatory hormones

Hypophyseal Portal System

The capillary networks in the median eminence are supplied by the superior hypophyseal artery. Before leaving the hypothalamus, the capillary networks unite to form a series of larger vessels that spiral around the infundibulum to reach the anterior lobe.

The vessels between the median eminence and the anterior lobe carry blood from one capillary network to another. Blood vessels that link two capillary networks are called portal vessels; in this case, they have the histological structure of veins, so they are called portal veins.

Once within the anterior lobe, these vessels form a second capillary network that branches among the endocrine cells.



+ NEUROHYPOPHYSIS

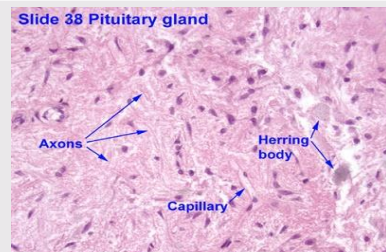
PARS NERVOSA

CONTENTS:

<u>Unmyelinated axons</u> of secretory neurons	Herring bodies	Pitocytes	Fenestrated blood capillaries
<p>situated in supraoptic & paraventricular nuclei (i.e. Axons of hypothalamohypophyseal tract).</p> <p>Function: <u>Storage & release</u> of:</p> <p>1- Vasopressin (ADH);by supraoptic nuclei</p> <p>2- Oxytocin;by paraventricular nuclei (promotes milk secretion)</p>	<p>- Are distention of the axons in pars nervosa. (Although its name is NEUROhypophysis, but it doesn't have neurons, we can only find axons. Their neuronal cells are in the hypothalamus.)</p> <p>- Representing accumulation of neurosecretory granules at axon termini and along the length of the axons in pars nervosa.</p>	<p>- Are glial-like cells in pars nervosa.</p> <p>- Have numerous cytoplasmic Processes.</p> <p>Functions: Support the axons of the pars nervosa.</p>	<p>-</p>

N.B. No secretory or neuronal cells in pars nervosa.

Its function is only storage that's why it doesn't have Secretory cells.



+ ADENOHYPHYSIS

Pars Distalis (Pars Anterior)

Types of parenchymal cells:-

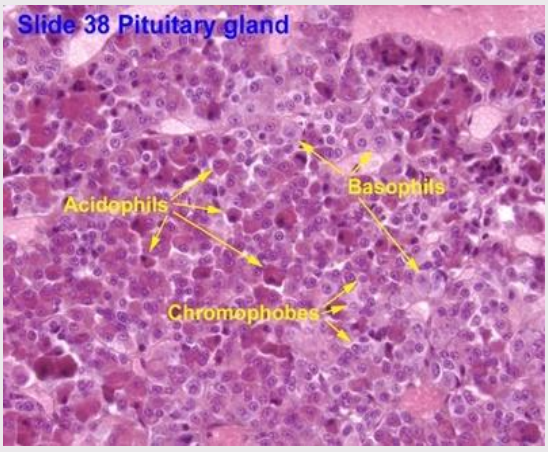
Chromophils

a- Acidophils:

- 1- Somatotrophs (GH cells).
- 2- Mammotrophs (Prolactin cells):
Increase during lactation.

b- Basophils:

- 1- Thyrotrophs (TSH Cells)
- 2- Gonadotrophs (Gonadotropic cells)
(FSH, LH)
- 3- Corticotrophs (ACTH cells)

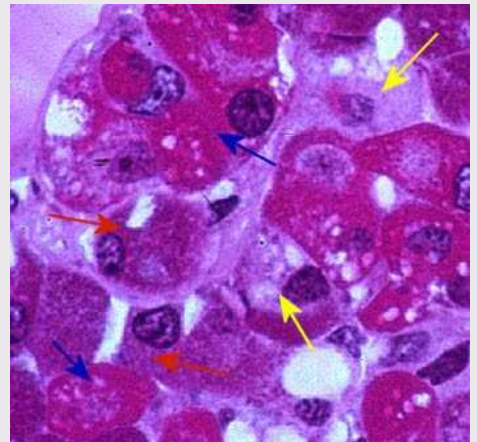


Chromophobes

Not Acidophilic, nor basophilic. It resists H&E stain.

May represent:

- 1- stem cells.
- 2- degranulated chromophils.
- 3- degenerated cells.



Blue arrow: acidophils
Red arrow: basophils
Yellow arrow: chromophobes



Extra Slide

8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

Abbreviations used in this lecture

Abbreviation	Its meaning
ADH	Antidiuretic hormone
GH	Growth hormone.
TSH	Thyroid stimulating hormone.
FSH	Follicular stimulating hormone.
LH	Luteinizing hormone.
ACTH	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone.

Difference between Prolactin and Oxytocin hormone.

Prolactin	Oxytocin
Stimulates the production of breast milk and is necessary for normal milk production during breastfeeding.	Responsible for stimulation of milk ejection (milk letdown) and for stimulation of uterine smooth muscle contraction at birth.

MCQs

1) What of the following organ is nicknamed the "master gland"?

- a. Adrenal medulla
- b. Pituitary
- c. Heart

2) Which type of the following cells secretes ACTH?

- a. Lactotropic cells
- b. Gonadotropic cells
- c. Corticotropic cells

3) What is the connection between the pituitary gland and the hypothalamus?

- a. Infundibulum
- b. Pars intermedia
- c. Pars tuberalis

4) Which of the following is not part of the adenohypophysis?

- a. Pars intermedia
- b. Pars tuberalis
- c. Pars nervosa

5) Which cell type of the following secretes prolactin?

- a. Mammotrophs cells
- b. Thyrotropic cells
- c. Somatotropic cells

6) Which cell type of the following is considered acidophilic?

- a. Gonadotropic cells
- b. Corticotropic cells
- c. Mammotrophs cells

7) Which cell type of the following secretes LH?

- a. Lactotropic cells
- b. Thyrotropic cells
- c. Gonadotropic cells

8) Which cell type of the following is considered a basophil?

- a. Thyrotropic cells
- b. Lactotropic cells
- c. Somatotropic cells



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Thanks you for checking
our work, Good luck.
-Team histology.



HISTOLOGY
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