

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM – READING

1. Which endocrine gland is sometimes called the “master gland” and why?

The pituitary gland is sometimes called the master gland because of its great influence on the other body organs. Its function is complex and important for overall well-being.

2. Which endocrine gland lies just above the pituitary gland? How do they work together?

The hypothalamus lies just above the pituitary gland. It releases hormones that start and stop the release of pituitary hormones.

3. What can the absence of testosterone cause in males after the removal of testes due to cancer?

Decreased sexual drive, impotence, altered body image, other symptoms.

4. What are the names of the two important disorders caused by problems with adrenal cortex?

Cushing’s syndrome (too much cortisol) and Addison’s disease (too little cortisol)

5. What is the name of the condition caused by too much insulin? What does it lead to?

Hyperinsulinism, it leads to hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)

6. Which endocrine gland makes hormones that help control calcium and phosphorus levels in the body?

Parathyroid gland

7. What are the symptoms of hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism?

Hypothyroidism – too little of the thyroid hormone: decreased energy, slow heart beat, dry skin, constipation, and feeling cold all the time.

Hyperthyroidism – too much of the thyroid hormone: anxiety, fast heart rate, diarrhea, and weight loss.

8. What are the names of the two main ovarian hormones? What are their functions?

Estrogen and progesterone. They are responsible for developing and maintaining female sexual traits, as well as maintaining pregnancy. They also control the menstrual cycle.

9. Which hormone may help to control sleep patterns? Which gland is it produced in?

Melatonin, it is produced in the pineal gland.

10. Which gland is needed early in life? Why? What happens to it in adulthood?

The thymus. It is needed for normal immune function. In adulthood its tissue is replaced by fat.