

## Overview of Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) Synthesis and Secretion

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### DESCRIPTION

Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH), which is produced in neurons dispersed throughout the anterior hypothalamus, is the primary regulator of testicular activity. GnRH induces the synthesis and release of the pituitary gonadotropic hormones, Luteinizing Hormone (LH), and Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH). Once it reaches the anterior pituitary (FSH), the hormones LH and FSH stimulate the production of testosterone and spermatogenesis by activating G Protein Coupled Receptors (GPCRs) on Leydig and Sertoli cells, respectively. The system is tightly regulated and is kept at a proper set point by the negative feedback effects of testicular steroids and inhibin-B. The function of the testicles is also influenced by a variety of internal and external variables.

The immediate regulator of reproduction is GnRH in primates; the anterior hypothalamus has a sparse population of neurons that contain the C-terminal amidated deCA peptide. Subventricular and periventricular routes are used by GnRH neurons to send axons that eventually terminate in the capillary space within the median eminence. These axons release GnRH, which enters the capillaries and travels to the anterior pituitary cells in the hypothalamic portal circulation. GnRH secretion is influenced by a variety of circumstances.

The transcription rate of the pro-GnRH gene, which is influenced by the POU-homeodomain protein, Oct-1, adhesion-related kinase, and retinoid-X receptors, among other factors, determines the levels of GnRH mRNA. Studies on GnRH-producing murine neural cell line GT1-7 cells indicate that mRNA stability is also crucial for maintaining GnRH gene expression after receiving bilateral orchidectomy. Adult male monkeys' hypothalamus expresses more GnRH mRNA showing evidence of testicular secretion.

Endocrine hormones, most likely testosterone, that block the production of the GnRH gene pro-GnRH precursor is created by GnRH mRNA transcription and GnRH neurons have yet another regulatory level that involves the transformation of the inactive precursor into the active decapeptide. This occurs posttranslationally as the median eminence's peptidases inactivate GnRH after it is secreted; further regulating its quantity. GnRH

is released into the portal circulation in bursts, like the majority of hypothalamic peptides. GnRH levels in conscious sheep ranged from nadir values of less than 5 pg/ml to pulse peak values of approximately 30 pg/ml. The average GnRH and all the concentration in hypothalamic portal blood (in rams) is approximately 20 pg/ml (0.02 nM). In those experiments, intact, castrated, and testosterone-replaced rams' GnRH pulse amplitudes were generally equal. However, castrate animals had higher GnRH pulse frequency than intact animals, which was decreased by testosterone supplementation. These findings suggest that GnRH secretion increases with low testosterone, principally because GnRH pulse frequency is increased.

The "GnRH pulse generator," a phrase used to characterize the highly coordinated firing of GnRH neurons in the Medial Basal Hypothalamus (MBH), regulates the frequency of GnRH pulses. The discovery that electrical activity bursts in the MBH of the nonhuman ape coexist with pulses of LH secretion is the basis for the theory that alterations in cell membrane potentials predispose to bursts of GnRH release. The simultaneous activation of several GnRH receptors, interneurons, second messengers, or gap junction ions may all represent communication in neurons. Studies using various 5' deletion constructs of the GnRH promoter-luciferase vector suggest that episodic GnRH gene expression is a promoter-dependent event that is mediated by Oct-1 because GnRH receptors have been identified on GnRH neurons and it has been observed that adding GnRH to GnRH neuronal cultures reduces GnRH pulsatile release.

Numerous neurotransmitters, including as Glutamate,  $\gamma$ -Amino Butyric Acid (GABA), neuropeptide Y, opiates, dopamine, norepinephrine, Cyclic Adenosine Monophosphate (cAMP), and nitric oxide, have an impact on the release of GnRH. The majority of these drugs have receptors on GnRH neurons, which suggests that they directly affect GnRH neurons. Nitric oxide signalling may be involved in N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors that mediate glutamate GnRH activation through synaptic connections between GnRH neurons and other interneurons. Neurotransmitters whose receptors are not expressed on GnRH neurons may control GnRH additionally; neuronal axon terminals that abut capillaries in the median eminence may directly experience GnRH secretion. Control 6%–10% of the cells

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in a healthy anterior pituitary are gonadotrophs they are challenging to distinguish by morphological criteria since they might be tiny and rounded or bigger and oval instead, In primates as in rodents the majority of gonadotrophs are bihormonal, i.e., they express both LH-13 and FSH-13 component genes immunostaining is utilised to detect gonadotrophs using specific antibodies for LH-13 and FSH-13 proteins few cells express LH or FSH in a selective manner, and certain gonadotrophs also secrete growth hormones in addition to the gonadotropic hormones the biological significance of these results is still unknown, though after reaching the pituitary, GnRH binds to and activates a cell-surface G protein-coupled receptor (GnRH-R) this receptor is a structurally distinct member of the seven trans membrane G protein-linked receptor family and lacks the long C-terminal intracellular tail that is typical of most GPCRs GnRH activates gonadotrophs through both short-term and long-term mechanisms that are illustrated while down regulation of the GnRH receptor by GnRH is a somewhat protracted event occurring hours rather than minutes,

this tail is crucial in the fast desensitisation of other GPCRs a G protein can more easily attach to the third intracellular loop of the receptor when GnRH is bound to its receptor. The attached G protein dissociates into its component  $\alpha$  and  $\beta\gamma$  subunits, exchanging guanosine 5'-diphosphate (GDP) for guanosine 5'-triphosphate (GTP).

The  $\alpha$ -subunits are specific to each G protein, although the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits of the various G proteins are identical G $\alpha_q$ , the main G protein that associates with the GnRH-R, is activated by the dissociated G protein  $\alpha$ -subunit to activate downstream signalling pathways G $\alpha_q$  causes membrane-associated phospholipase C to hydrolyze membrane phospholipids and increases intracellular inositol phosphates (Ips), including inositol triphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) once voltage-gated calcium channels open as a result of IP<sub>3</sub>'s quick mobilisation of calcium from intracellular reserves, extracellular calcium enters the cell. The quick release of LH and FSH is principally caused by an increase in intracellular free calcium additionally; GnRH receptors may connect with other G proteins.