

PSYCH 260/BBH 203

Hormones

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Prelude



Even when practiced discreetly, raised eyebrows and disapproving glances still meet with those who dare to udder-feed in public.

Announcements

- Quiz 2 today (after class)
- Blog post 1 (of 3) due today by 5:00 PM
- Exam 2 *next* Tuesday, March 1 (no in-class meeting)

Today's Topics

- Hormonal communication

Warm-up

Black widow spider venom causes paralysis by impeding the normal function of which neurotransmitter system?

- Glutamate (Glu)
- GABA (GABA)
- Dopamine (DA)
- Acetylcholine (ACh)

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- ~~GABA (GABA)~~
- ~~Dopamine (DA)~~
- Acetylcholine (ACh)

With one exception, the monoamine neurotransmitters bind to what type of receptors?

- ionotropic
- voltage-gated
- nicotinic
- metabotropic

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- **metabotropic**

With one exception, the monoamine neurotransmitters bind to what type of receptor?

- ~~ionotropic~~
- ~~voltage-gated~~
- ~~nicotinic~~ ACh binds to nAChR; ACh not a monoamine
- **metabotropic**

The *outward* flow of this ion across the neural membrane creates what kind of PSP?

- Cl^- ; IPSP
- K^+ ; IPSP
- Glutamate; EPSP
- GABA; EPSP

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The *outward* flow of this ion across the neural membrane creates what kind of PSP?

- ~~Cl⁻; IPSP~~ Outward Cl⁻ -> inside less negative == EPSP
- **K⁺; IPSP** Make inside less positive
- ~~Glutamate; EPSP~~ Glu not an ion; transported across
- ~~GABA; EPSP~~ GABA not an ion; transported across

Hormones

Hormones

- Chemicals secreted into blood
- Act on specific target tissues via receptors
- Produce specific effects

Can a substance be a hormone AND a neurotransmitter?

- Yes, why not?
- No, absolutely not.

Can a substance be a hormone AND a neurotransmitter?

- Yes, why not?
- No, absolutely not.
- Do the substances bind to neurons AND to other cells in the body?

Examples of substances that are both hormones and neurotransmitters

- Melatonin
- Epinephrine/adrenaline
- Oxytocin
- Vasopressin

Physiological responses and behaviors under hormonal influence



Physiological responses and behaviors under hormonal influence

- Ingestive (eating/ drinking)
 - Fluid levels
 - Na, K, Ca levels
 - Digestion
 - Blood glucose levels

Physiological responses and behaviors under hormonal influence



Physiological responses and behaviors under hormonal influence

- Reproduction
 - Sexual Maturation
 - Mating
 - Birth
 - Care giving

Physiological responses and behaviors under hormonal influence



Physiological responses and behaviors under hormonal influence

- Responses to threat/challenge
 - Metabolism
 - Heart rate, blood pressure
 - Digestion
 - Arousal

What do these physiological responses and behaviors have in common?

- Biological imperatives
- Events restricted in space and time
- Often involve other animals

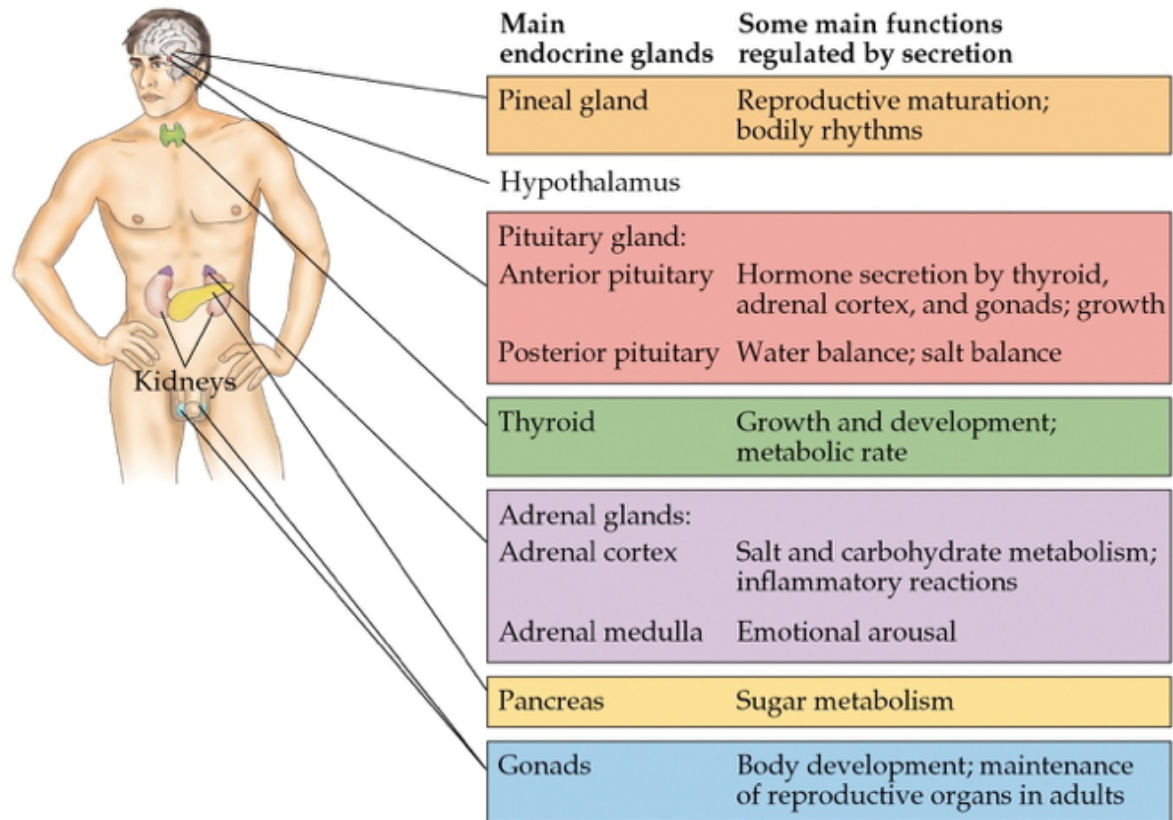
Differences between neural and hormonal communication

- Point to point vs. “broadcast”
 - Wider broadcast than neuromodulators
 - Everywhere in body via bloodstream
- Fast vs. slow-acting
- Short-acting vs. long-acting
- Digital (yes-no) vs. analog (graded)
- Voluntary control vs. involuntary

Similarities between neural and hormonal communication

- Chemical messengers stored for later release
- Release follows stimulation
- Action depends on specific receptors
- 2nd messenger systems common

Where are hormones released

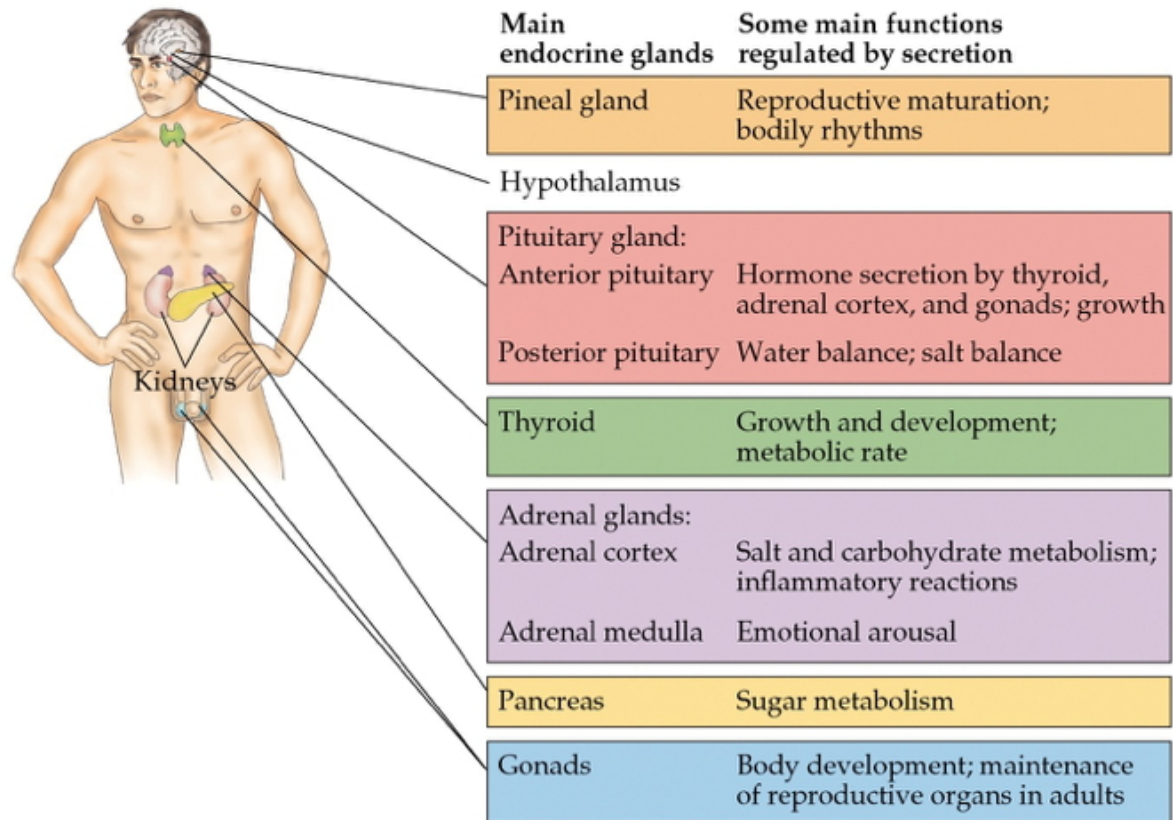


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Where are hormones released?

- CNS
 - Hypothalamus
 - *Pituitary*
 - *Anterior*
 - *Posterior*
 - Pineal gland

Where are hormones released



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Where are hormones released?

- Rest of body
 - *Thyroid*
 - *Adrenal (ad=adjacent, renal=kidney) gland*
 - *Adrenal cortex*
 - *Adrenal medulla*
 - *Gonads (testes/ovaries)*

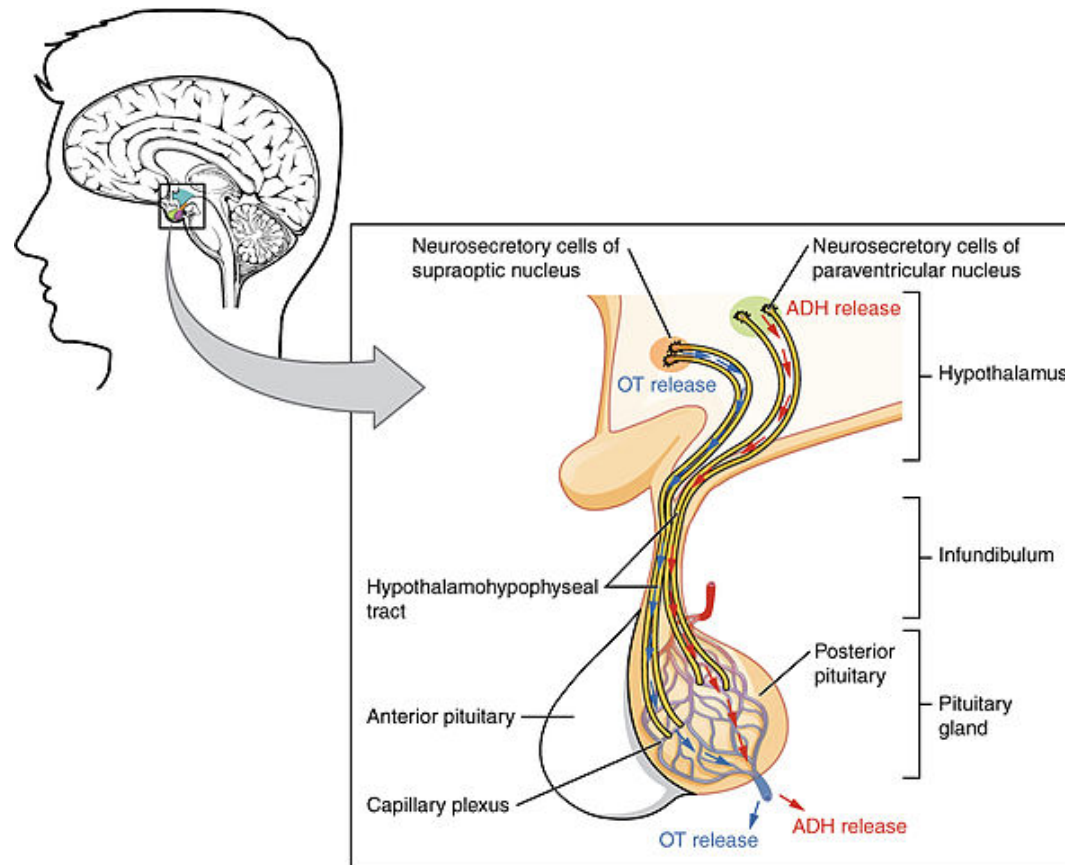
Two hypothalamus/pituitary release systems

- Direct
- Indirect

Direct hormone release into bloodstream

- Hypothalamus (paraventricular nucleus, supraoptic nucleus) to
- Posterior pituitary
 - *Oxytocin*
 - *Arginine Vasopressin (AVP, vasopressin)*

Direct release

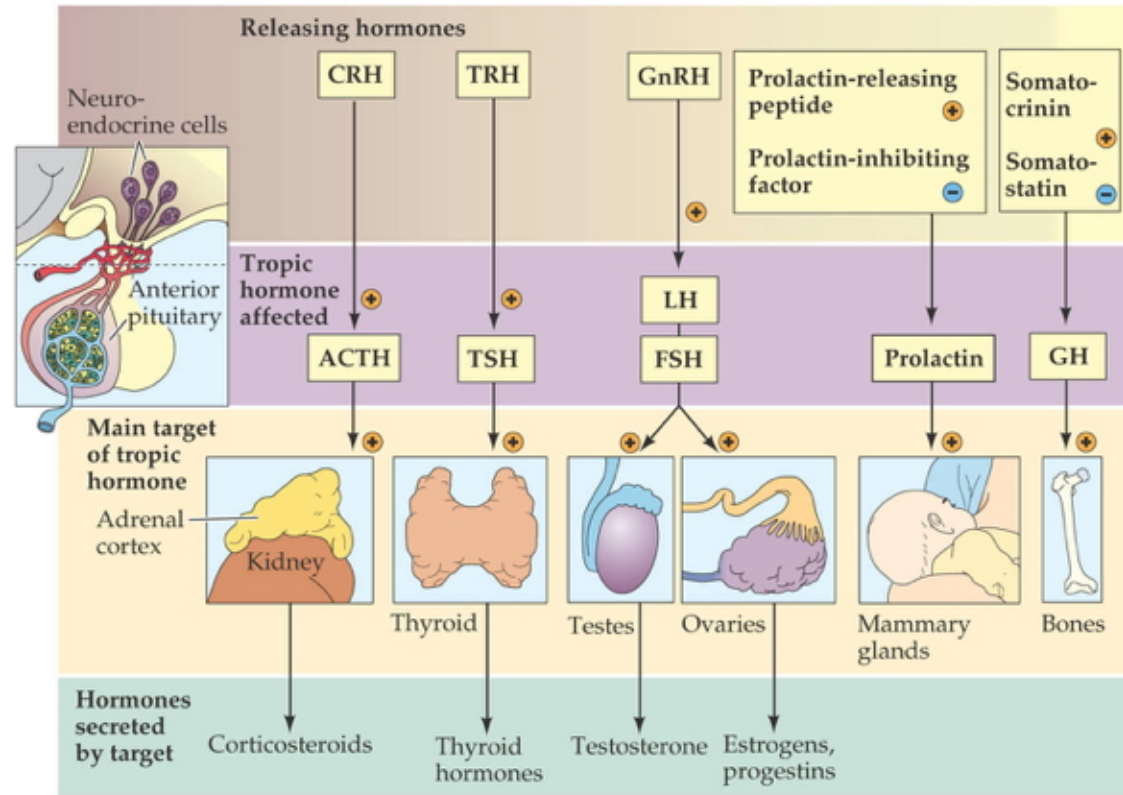


https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/70/1807_The_Posterior_Pituitary_Complex.jpg/594p1807_The_Posterior_Pituitary_Complex.jpg

Indirect release

- Hypothalamus -> *releasing hormones*
- Anterior pituitary -> *tropic hormones*
- End organs

Indirect release

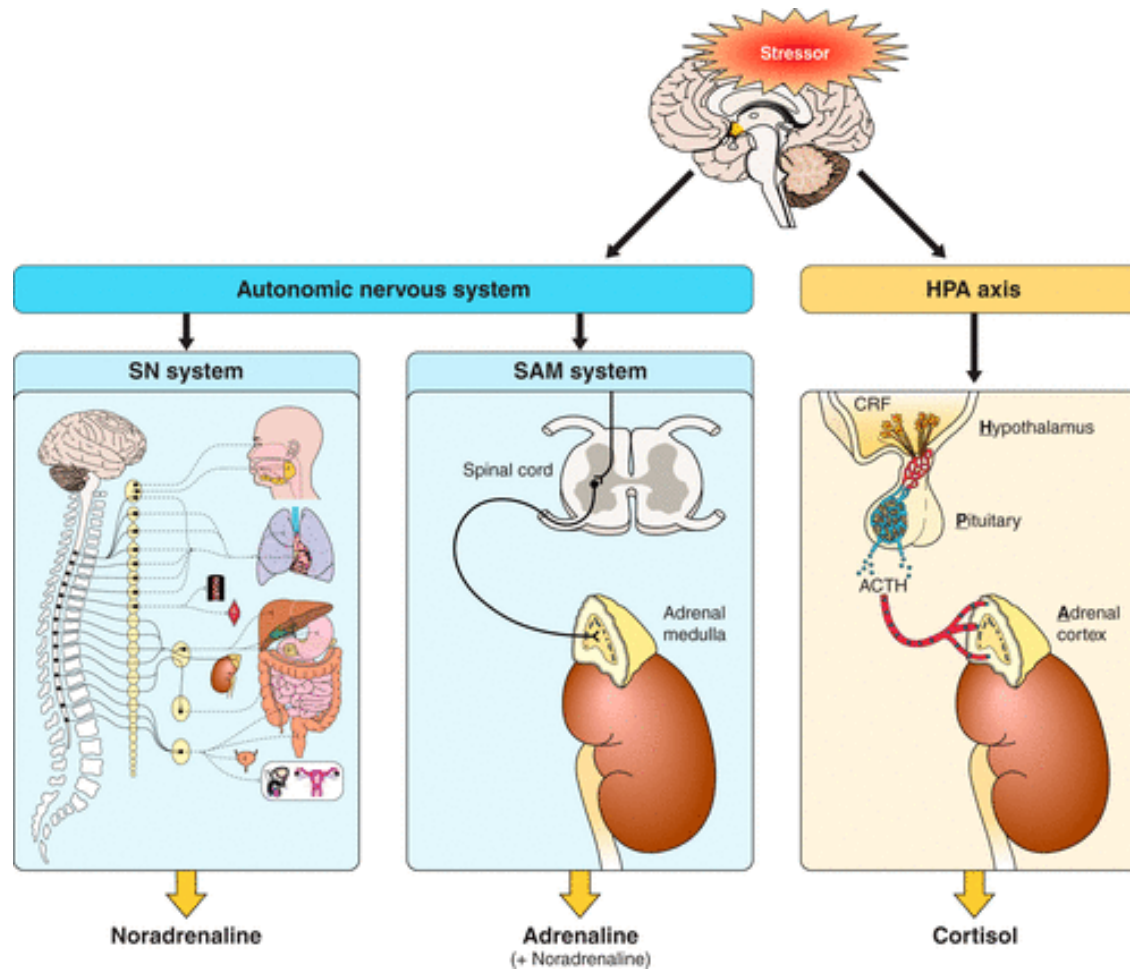


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Case studies

Case 1: Responses to threat or challenge

- Neural response
 - *Sympathetic Adrenal Medulla (SAM) response*
 - Sympathetic NS activation of adrenal medulla, other organs
 - Releases NE and Epi



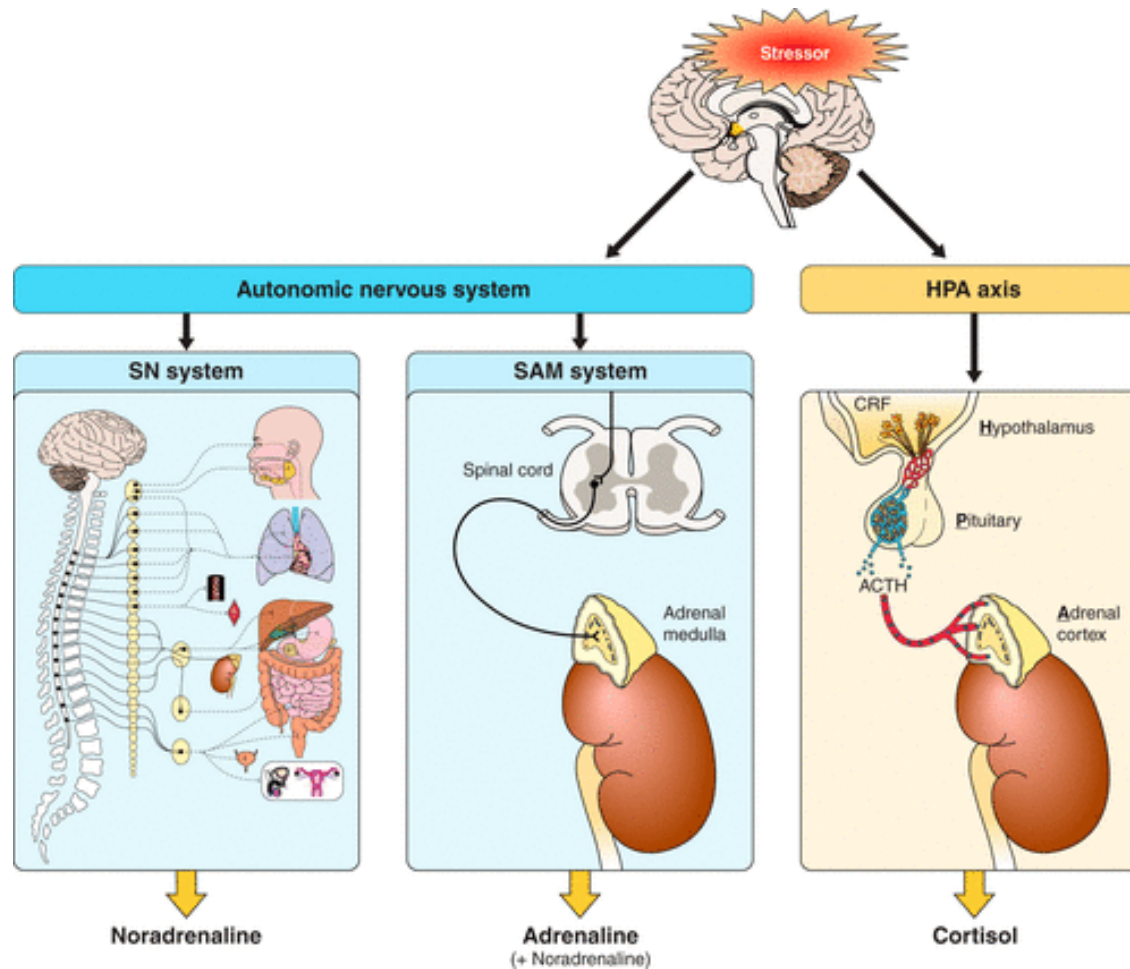
(Deussing & Chen, 2018)

Case 1: Responses to threat or challenge

- Endocrine response
 - *Hypothalamic Pituitary Adrenal (HPA) axis*
 - Adrenal hormones released
- Hypothalamus
 - *Corticotropin Releasing Hormone (CRH)*
- Anterior pituitary
 - *Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)*

Case 1: Responses to threat or challenge

- Adrenal cortex
 - *Glucocorticoids (e.g., cortisol)*
 - *Mineralocorticoids (e.g. aldosterone)*

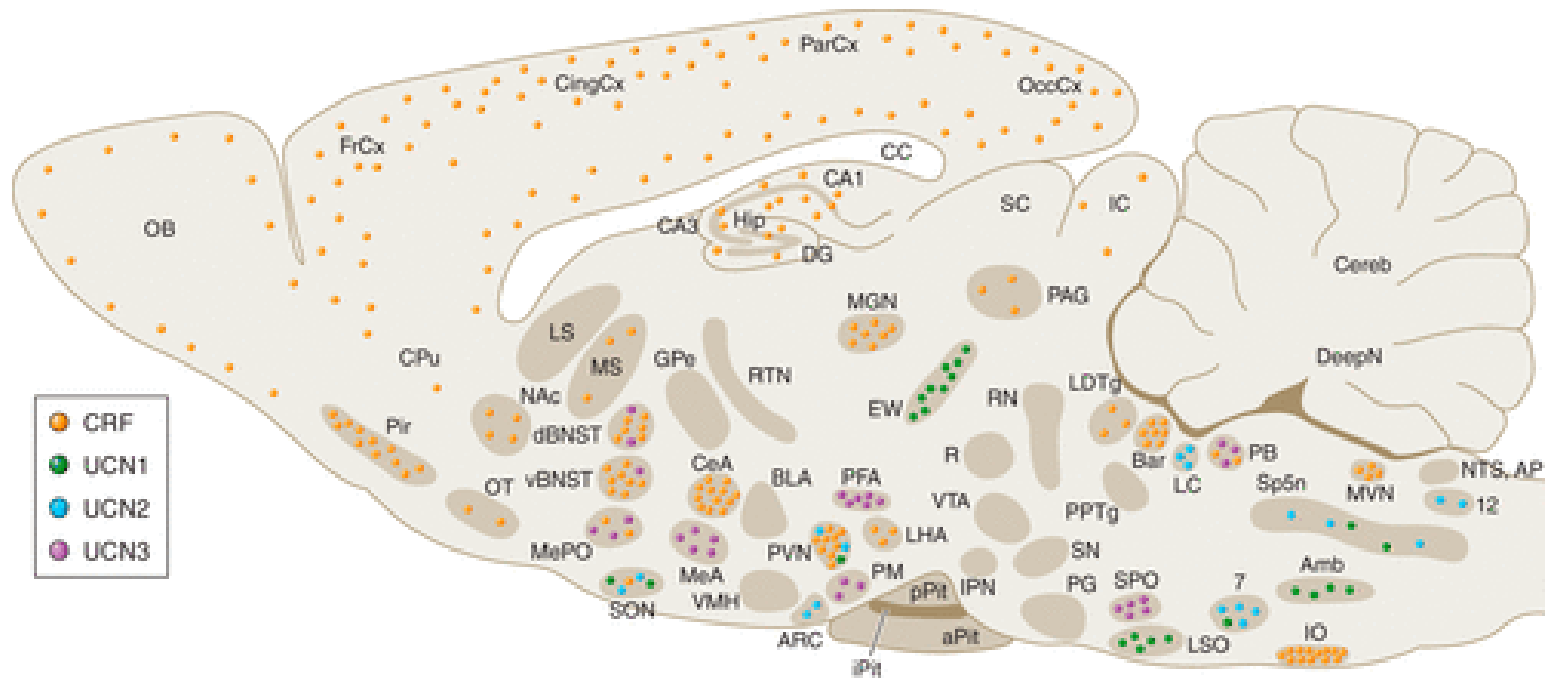


(Deussing & Chen, 2018)

Adrenal hormones

- *Steroids*
 - Derived from cholesterol
- *Cortisol*
 - increases blood glucose, anti-inflammatory
 - negative consequences of prolonged exposure
- *Aldosterone*
 - Regulates Na (and water) retention in kidneys

CRH/CRF receptors widespread in brain

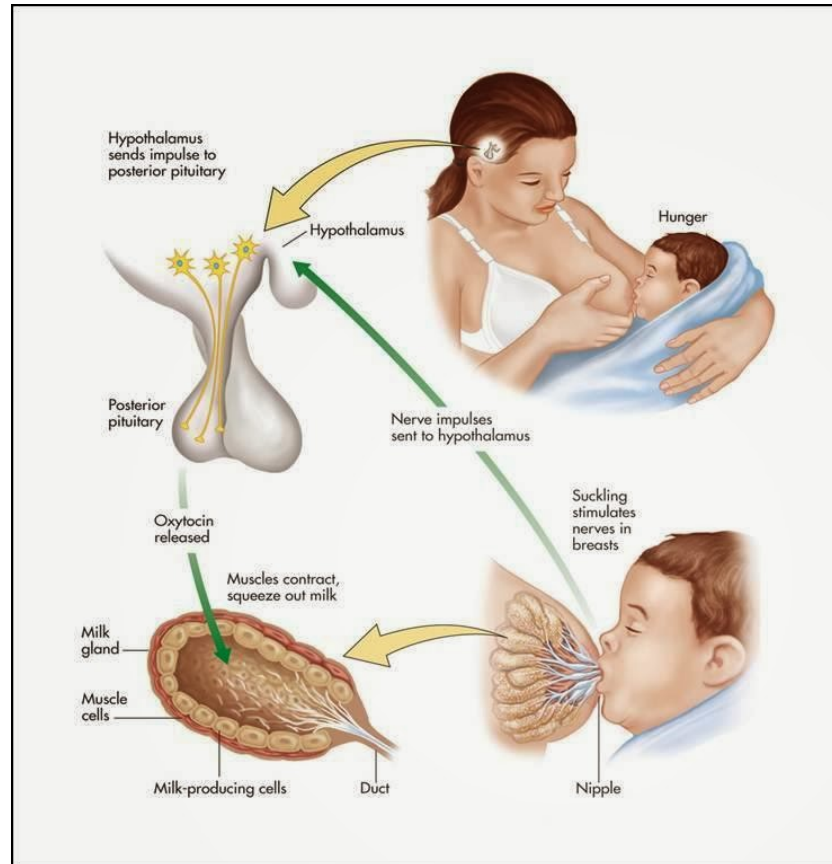


(Deussing & Chen, 2018)

Case 2: Reproductive behavior – the milk letdown reflex

- Hypothalamus releases oxytocin into posterior pituitary
- Targets milk ducts in breast tissue

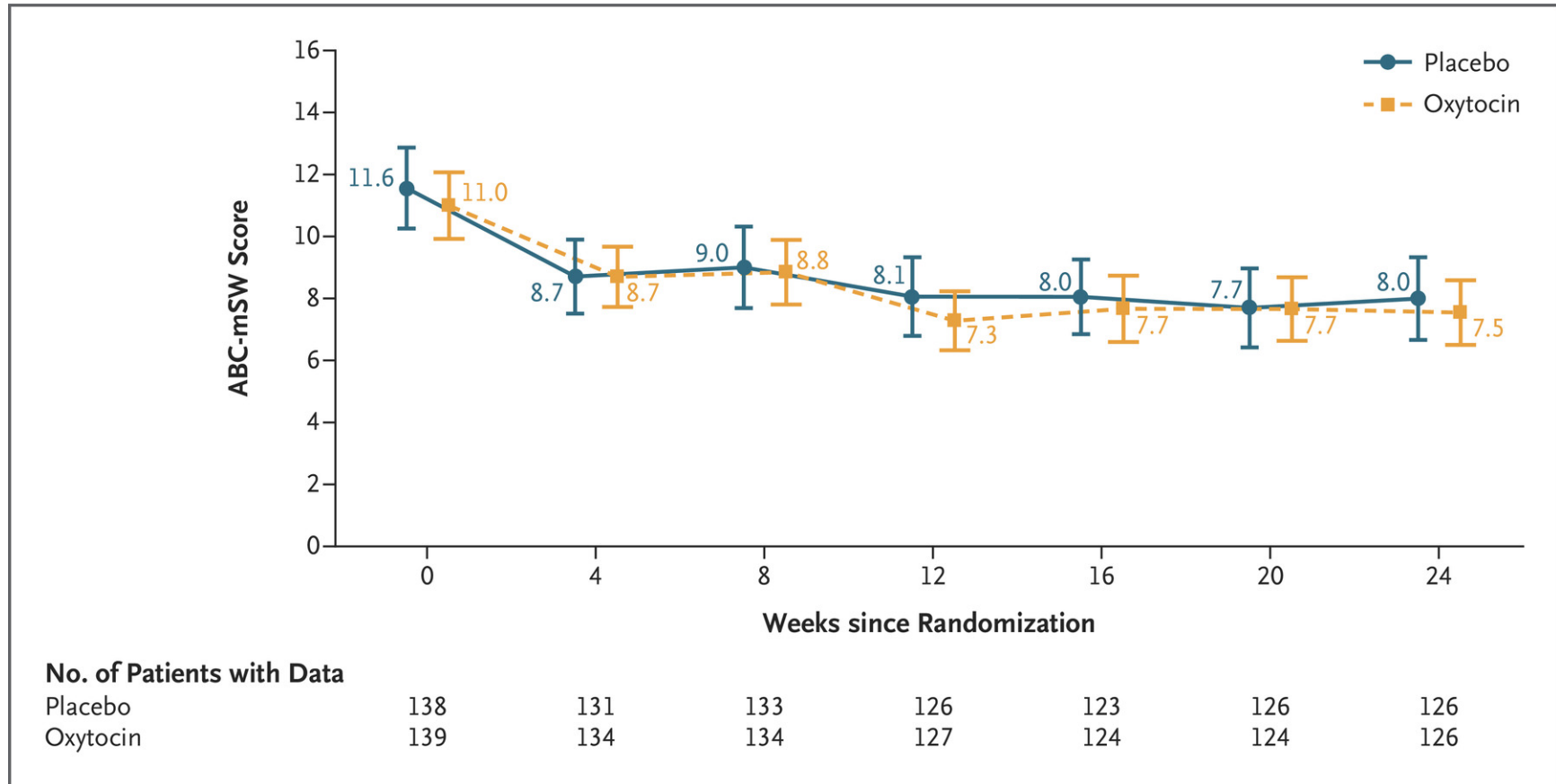
Milk letdown reflex



Oxytocin's role

- Sexual arousal
- Released in bursts during orgasm
- Stimulates uterine, vaginal contraction
- Links to social interaction, bonding ([Weisman & Feldman, 2013](#))
- Alters face processing in autism ([Domes et al., 2013](#))

Can oxytocin treat social impairments in autism?



(Sikich et al., 2021)

Oxytocin



References

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