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Pituitary Disorders

Your pituitary gland is a pea-sized gland at the base of your brain. The pituitary is the "master control gland" - it makes hormones that affect growth and the functions of other glands in the body.

With pituitary disorders, you often have too much or too little of one of your hormones. Injuries can cause pituitary disorders, but the most common cause is a pituitary tumor [<https://medlineplus.gov/pituitarytumors.html>] .

Start Here

- Brain Hormones [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/endocrine-library/hormones-and-endocrine-function/brain-hormones>] (Endocrine Society)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Adrenocorticotropic Hormone (ACTH) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/adrenocorticotropic-hormone-acth/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/hormona-adrenocorticotropica-acth/>]
- Brain MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/mri-brain>]  (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/mri-brain>]
- Follicle-Stimulating Hormone (FSH) Levels Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/follicle-stimulating-hormone-fsh-levels-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-niveles-de-la-hormona-foliculoestimulante-fsh/>]
- Growth Hormone Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/growth-hormone-tests>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-la-hormona-del-crecimiento/>]
- IGF-1 (Insulin-like Growth Factor 1) Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/igf-1-insulin-like-growth-factor-1-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-igf-1-factor-de-crecimiento-similar-a-la-insulina-1/>]
- Luteinizing Hormone (LH) Levels Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/luteinizing-hormone-lh-levels-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-niveles-de-la-hormona-luteinizante-hl/>]

Specifics

- Acromegaly [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/endocrine-diseases/acromegaly>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
- Empty Sella Syndrome [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/empty-sella-syndrome>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Galactorrhea [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/galactorrhea/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/galactorrea-es/?adfree=true>]
- Hyperprolactinemia [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/endocrine-library/hyperprolactinemia>] (Endocrine Society)

Genetics

- Combined pituitary hormone deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/combined-pituitary-hormone-deficiency>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Videos and Tutorials

- Pituitary gland [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000099.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000099.htm>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Acromegaly [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Acromegaly%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pituitary Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Pituitary+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Clinical characteristics and comparative analysis of PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor-induced pituitary dysfunction versus... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40594483>]
- Article: Perioperative Complications Associated with Routine Preoperative Glucocorticoid Use Among Patients Undergoing... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40416483>]
- Article: Risk factors and prediction model of metabolic disorders in adult patients... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40044792>]
- Pituitary Disorders -- see more articles [[https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pituitary+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+\]](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pituitary+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+)

Reference Desk

- Endocrine System [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/endocrine.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/endocrine.html>]

Find an Expert

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/>]
- Find an Endocrinologist [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/find-an-endocrinologist-directory>] (Endocrine Society)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>] 
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov>] 

Children

- Your Endocrine System (For Kids) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/endocrine.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/endocrine.html>]

Teenagers

- Endocrine System (For Teens) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/endocrine.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/endocrine.html>]

Patient Handouts

- ACTH blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003695.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003695.htm>]
- ACTH stimulation test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003696.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003696.htm>]
- Empty sella syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000349.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000349.htm>]
- Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003710.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003710.htm>]
- Gigantism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001174.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001174.htm>]
- Growth hormone stimulation test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003377.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003377.htm>]
- Hypopituitarism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000343.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000343.htm>]
- Luteinizing hormone (LH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003708.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003708.htm>]
- Pituitary apoplexy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001167.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001167.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

ACTH blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003695.htm>]

ACTH stimulation test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003696.htm>]

Antidiuretic hormone blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003702.htm>]

Cortisol blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003693.htm>]

Empty sella syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000349.htm>]

Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003710.htm>]

Free T4 test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003517.htm>]

Gigantism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001174.htm>]

Growth hormone stimulation test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003377.htm>]

Growth hormone suppression test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003376.htm>]

Growth hormone test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003706.htm>]

Head MRI [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003791.htm>]

Hypopituitarism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000343.htm>]

Luteinizing hormone (LH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003708.htm>]

Pituitary apoplexy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001167.htm>]

Pituitary gland [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000099.htm>]

Prolactin blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003718.htm>]

Sheehan syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001175.htm>]

TBG blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003374.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Pituitary Tumors [<https://medlineplus.gov/pituitarytumors.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Pituitary Disorders* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>]

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