



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Pituitary Disorders

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/pituitarydisorders.html>

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

- Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/adrenocorticotrophic-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

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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