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**Topic: Pituitary Gland**

### **Pituitary Gland**

The pituitary gland, in humans, is a pea-sized gland that sits in a protective bony enclosure called the sella turcica. It is composed of three lobes: anterior, intermediate, and posterior. In many animals, these three lobes are distinct. The intermediate is a vascular and almost absent in human beings. The intermediate lobe is present in many animal species, in particular in rodents, mice and rats, that have been used extensively to study pituitary development and function. In all animals, the fleshy, glandular anterior pituitary is distinct from the neural composition of the posterior pituitary, which is an extension of the hypothalamus.

- The Pituitary gland (or hypophysis ) regulates so many body activities, it has been nicknamed the '**master gland**' or '**the conductor of endocrine symphony**'.
- The pituitary gland is located in the sella turcica of sphenoid bone and is attached to the hypothalamus by infundibulum .
- The pituitary gland consists of two major parts in human-large anterior pituitary (or adenohypophysis ) and small posterior pituitary (or neurohypophysis).
- In man, it normally measures about 1.3 cm in diameter and weighs about 0.5 gram. It is slightly larger in woman.

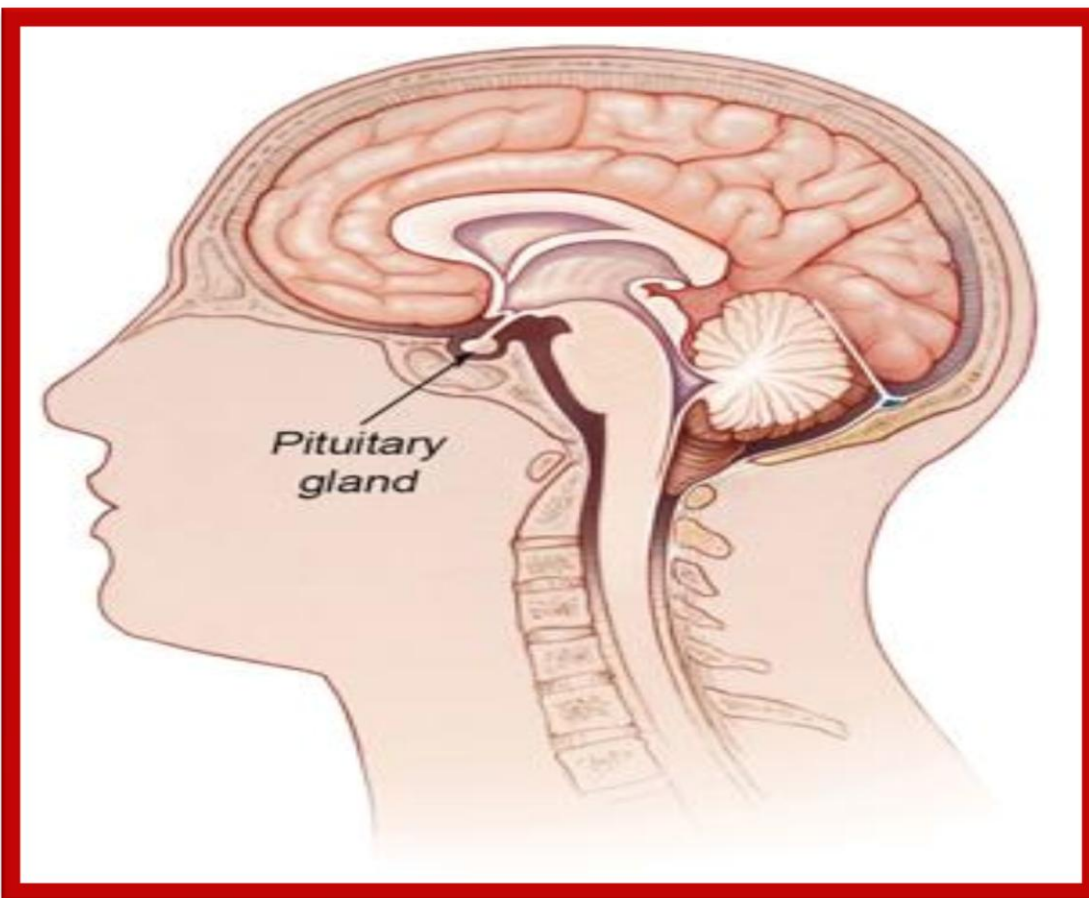
**Adenohypophysis  
(Anterior lobe)**

- Pars distalis
- Pars intermedia
- Pars tuberalis

**Neurohypophysis  
(Posterior lobe)**

Median eminence  
Infundibular stem  
Pars nervosa

- The hormones secreted by pituitary are proteins (peptides) or glycoproteins.



**Fig; Pituitary Gland**