

Regulation of physiological and behavioral activities of the organism

## **ENDOCRINE SYSTEM**

Ductless glands, clusters of cells within certain organs of the body, and diffuse endocrine cells (in the epithelia of digestive tract and respiratory system) secrete hormones (chemical messengers).



Hormones are secreted to bloodstream to be delivered to target cells. Cells respond to a hormone when they express a specific receptor for that hormone.

### PITUITARY GLAND - HYPOHYSIS



Hypophysis produces hormones responsible for regulation of growth, reproduction and metabolism. It is composed of adenohypophysis (anterior), and neurohypophysis (posterior) and is located below the hypothalamus - portion of the brain also functions as endocrine gland with groups of cell bodies forming small nuclei, responsible for connection of nervous system with endocrine system.



The **pituitary gland (HYPOPHYSIS)** is divided into the **adenohypophysis** (composed of the pars distalis, pars intermedia, and the pars tuberalis) and the **neurohypophysis** (composed of median eminence, infundibular stalk and the pars nervosa).

HYPOTHALAMIC CONTROL OF ANTERIOR PITUITARY HORMONE PRODUCTION

Hypothalamic neurones secrete releasing/inhibiting factors. These hormones diffuse into capillaries at the median eminence and are carried to the anterior pituitary in

the portal vessels.

Endocrine cells release their hormones into the second set of capillaries for distribution to the rest of the body.

All these hormones act on the adenohypophysis stimulating or inhibiting the production of hormones



#### The hypothalamo-hypophyseal system

Anterior pituitary receives from the hypothalamus:



Systemic target organs

Thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) – stimulates the release of TSH

Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) – also known as Luteinizing-hormonereleasing hormone (LHRH) – stimulates the release of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and luteinizing hormone (LH)

**Corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH)** – stimulates the release of adrenocorticotropin (ACTH)

Somatotropin-releasing hormone (SRH)stimulates the release of somatotropin (growth hormone - GH) Prolactin-releasing hormone (PRH) -

stimulates the release of prolactin

Somatostatin - inhibits release of GH Prolactin-inhibiting hormone (dopamine)

### **A**DENOHYPOPHYSIS

(pars distalis, pars intermedia, pars tuberalis)

### PARS DISTALIS

covered by fibrous capsule houses 3 main types of cells acidophils and basophils

(together known as chromophils) and chromophobes.

Neurosecretory folliculostellate cells (stem cells, phagocytes, supporting cells)

The most abundant cells are **acidophils** 





### Adenohypophysis – pars distalis



Two types of acidophils

Somatotrophs secrete somatotropin (growth hormone);

Somatotropin - increases cellular metabolic rates (muscle growth); induces liver cells to produce somatomedins -insulin-like growth factors I and II which stimulate the mitotic activity of epiphyseal plate chondrocytes and thus promote growth of long bones.

Mammotrophs release prolactin:

- Prolactin - promotes mammary gland development during pregnancy and lactation after birth, production of testosteron, spermatogenesis.

#### Cells of the adenohypophysis – pars distalis (cont.) Three types of basophils

Corticotrophs - adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH), melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH),  $\beta$ -lipotropic hormone (LPH) and  $\beta$ -endorphins. ACTH stimulates of the adrenal cortex, MSH and  $\beta$ - LPH stimulates melanocytes to produce melanin.  $\beta$ - LPH – lipolysis.  $\beta$ -endorphins – analgesics.

**Thyrotrophs** - **TSH** - **thyrotropin** stimulates synthesis and release of thyroid hormones.

**Gonadotrophs** - **FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone)** and **LH (luteinizing hormon,** ICSH in males). **LH** – promotes ovulation and development of the corpus luteum, progesteron and estrogen secretion (female), stimulates Leydig cells to secrete testosteron (male), **FSH-** stimulates ovarian follicles growth, estrogen secretion (female), Sertoli cells to produce androgen-binding protein (male).



#### **Classical staining of hypophysis pars distalis**

#### Chromophils = acidophils and basophils.

**Chromophobes-** have less cytoplasm than chromophils, may represent either nonspecific stem cells or degranulated chromophils.





### **A**DENOHYPOPHYSIS

Pars distalis (pars anterior) Pars intermedia Pars tuberalis

**Pars intermedia** - between the pars distalis and the pars nervosa, contains many cuboidal cell-lined, colloid-filled cysts which are the remnants of Rathke's pouch (Rathke's cysts) and basophils. Anterior pituitary, is derived from oral ectoderm evagination – Rathke pouch.



Basophils synthesize prohormone – **proopiomelanocortin** – can be cleaved enzymatically into active peptides ( $\alpha$ **melanocyte-stimulating hormone MSH**, **corticotropin ACTH**,  $\beta$ **lipotropin and**  $\beta$ -endorphin



### **ADENOHYPOPHYSIS**

Pars distalis (pars anterior) Pars intermedia Pars tuberalis

### Pars tuberalis

forms a sleeve which surrounds the stalk of the infundibulum - the connection between the hypothalamus and the pars nervosa





It is highly vascularized sheath with some cells containing granules that contain hormones (FSH, LH), lipid and colloid droplets, and glycogen.

### **N**EUROHYPOPHYSIS

#### posterior pituitary gland

is composed of median eminence, infundibular stalk (continuation of the hypothalamus) and pars nervosa



#### **Median eminence**



Secretory component of circumventrical organs, which houses primary capillary bed. Lacks the brain – blood barrier.

#### HYPOTHALAMOHYPOPHYSEAL TRACT

the bridge between the nervous system and the endocrine system

contains axons of neurosecretory cells, which cell bodies form nuclei of hypothalamus



Neurosecretory cells synthesize hormones, which are transported down the axons (after binding with carrier proteins – neurophysins) and released into blood vessels of posterior pituitary.

# Neurosecretory cells of the supraoptic and paraventricular hypothalamic nuclei synthesize two hormones:

#### Vasopressin (antidiuretic hormone [ADH]) supraoptic nucleus

 increases water absorption in the collecting ducts of the kidney and reduces the volume of urine.





## Oxytocin paraventricular nucleus

is released during labor, stimulates contraction of the smooth muscles of the uterus, seminiferous tubules, epidydymis and prostate. Acts in milk ejection from the mammary gland by stimulating contraction of myoepithelial cells of gland.



### NEUROHYPOPHYSIS pars nervosa

- consists of unmyelinated nerve fibers derived from neurosecretory cells of the supraoptic and paraventricular hypothalamic nuclei and pituicytes. In this part hormones are released in response to nerve stimulation.

Herring bodies (distensions of the axons) contain neurosecretory granules with vasopressin (ADH) and oxytocin.

**Pituicytes** are glial cells – support the axons of the pars nervosa

### **THYROID GLAND**





- is a butterfly-shaped organ
- two lobes united by an isthmus.
- situated on the anterior side of the neck, lying against and around the larynx and trachea

The thyroid gland is covered by a slender, dense irregular connective tissue capsule. Septa derived from the capsule invade the parenchyma and provide a conduit for blood vessels, lymphatic vessels, and nerve fibers

### **THYROID GLAND**





The structural and functional units of the thyroid gland are thyroid follicles composed of a simple cuboidal epithelium containing follicular (principal) cells surrounding a central colloid-filled lumen. This epithelium is separated from connective tissue by basal lamina. Parafollicular cells (C cells) are located individually or in clusters between follicles in the connective tissue. They are also surrounded by basal lamina.

#### **SYNTHESIS OF THYROID HORMONES**

is regulated by the iodide level in the follicular cells and binding of TSH (thyrotropin) to TSH receptor of the follicular cells

- 1. Synthesis and releasing of thyroglobulin into the colloid
- 2. lodine is reduced to iodide (  $I^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}$  ) and transported in bloodstream to the follicular cells

3. Iodide oxidized by thyroid peroxidase in cytosol enters the colloid and iodinates tyrosine residues of thyroglobulin forming monoiodinated tyrosine (MIT) and diiodinated tyrosine (DIT).



4. Triiodinated  $(T_3)$  and tetraiodinateded tyrosine  $(T_4)$  are formed by the coupling of MIT and DIT 5. TSH stimulates the endocytosis of the colloid by follicular cells 6. Within the endosomes hormones are cleaved from thyroglobulin and released

basement membrane endothelial cell

### **THYROID GLAND**



The hormones triiodothyronine  $(T_3)$  and thyroxine (tetraiodothyronine $T_4$ ) are stored in the colloid, bound to thyroglobulin - a large secretory glycoprotein.

When the hormones are to be released, the hormone-bound thyroglobulin is endocytosed by the follicular cells and the hormones are cleaved from it by **lysosomal proteases**.

- HYPOTHALAMUS

YOUR

CLAND

Thyrold Stimulating Hormone (TSH) Thyroid Hormones (T<sub>3</sub>-T<sub>4</sub>) (Bloodstream)

THYROID

TRACHEA

It controls your body's metabolic rate.

Thyroid Hormones affect many vital body functions:

- Heart rate
- Respiratory rate
- Rate at which calories are burned
- Skin maintenance
- Growth
- Heat production
- Fertility
- Digestion

 $T_4$  constitutes 90% of the released hormone. They act to increase the basal metabolic rate, help regulate long bone growth (synergy with growth hormone) and neural maturation.

Thyroid hormones also regulate protein, fat, and carbohydrate metabolism.

### PARAFOLLICULAR CELLS (CLEAR CELLS, C CELLS)



#### Parafollicular cells make calcitonin (thyrocalcitonin), a peptide hormone

that inhibits bone resorption by osteoclasts, thereby lowering calcium concentrations in blood. When the level of calcium ions in circulatory system is high the release of calcitonin is stimulated.

#### PARATHYROID GLAND



The **parathyroid glands**, usually four in number, are located on the posterior surface of the thyroid gland. Each gland is enveloped in its own thin, collagenous connective tissue capsule, which form septa with blood vessels, lymphatics and nerves entering the gland.

The parenchyma of glands consists of

2 cell types: chief cells and oxyphil

cells.



#### synthesize PTH (parathormone).

PTH acts on the cells of the bone, the kidneys, and the intestines leading to

the increased calcium ions concentrations in body fluids. When calcium

ions concentration in in body fluids falls below normal, the chief cells

increase the secretion of PTH.



#### **OXYPHIL CELLS**



**Oxyphil cells -** function is unknown, but similarly to the third type of cells - intermediate cells - probably represent inactive phases of chief cells.



oxyphil cells

The connective tissue stroma in older adults contains many adipose cells, which may occupy up to 60% of the gland

#### slide 90 Parathyroid gland

### **SUPRARENAL (ADRENAL) GLANDS**



- are located at the superior poles of the kidneys
- are embedded in the adipose tissue
- right and left gland are not mirror images of each other

### **SUPRARENAL (ADRENAL) GLANDS**

Right adrenal gland

Left adrenal gland



The **suprarenal gland** is divided into two histologically and functionally different regions: an outer portion, called the **suprarenal cortex** (derived from **mesoderm**), and inner portion called the **suprarenal medulla** (derived from neural crest – **ectoderm**).

### SUPRARENAL (ADRENAL) GLANDS





Suprarenal glands are surrounded by a connective tissue capsule (with large amounts of adipose tissue). The capsule sends septa into the parenchyma of the gland with blood vessels and nerves

**Microscopic Section** 



The **suprarenal cortex** is divided into three concentric regions, the outermost **zona glomerulosa**, the middle (and the largest) **zona fasciculata**, and the innermost **zona reticularis**. The suprarenal cortex produces steroid hormones – **CORTICOSTEROIDS**.



### **STRUCTURE OF THE ADRENAL CORTEX**

#### Zona glomerulosa

Zona fasciculata

- located just beneath the capsule
- 13% of total adrenal volume
- cells are arranged in cords and clusters



Hormones secreted

Mineralocorticoids (aldosterone)

Glucocorticoids (cortisol and corticosterone)

- the intermediate layer
- 80% of total adrenal volume
- cells (spongiocytes) are arranged in columns

Zona reticularis

- innermost layer
- 7% of total adrenal volume
- cells are arranged in anastomosing cords





Androgens (DHEA, androstenedione)

#### **PHYSIOLOGY OF THE ADRENAL CORTEX**

#### ZONA GLOMERULOSA - MINERALOCORTICOIDS



Hormones secreted

Mineralocorticoids (aldosterone)

**Mineralocorticoids**; mainly aldosterone, and some deoxycorticosterone, which stimulate absorption of Na<sup>+</sup> ions (sweat and salivary glands, gastric mucosa), in kidney stimulate the regulation of water balance and homeostasis of Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> ions by absorbing Na<sup>+</sup> and excreting K<sup>+</sup> ions.

#### **PHYSIOLOGY OF THE ADRENAL CORTEX**

#### ZONA FASCICULATA- GLUCOCORTICOIDS



Glucocorticoids (cortisol and corticosterone)

**Glucocorticoids:** mainly cortisol, cortisone and corticosterone exert **anabolic effect** on liver- promote the uptake of fatty acids, amino acids and carbohydrates for glucose synthesis and also **catabolic effect** - stimulate lipolysis (in adipocytes) and proteolysis (in muscle), suppress immune response.

### PHYSIOLOGY OF THE ADRENAL CORTEX ZONA RETICULARIS - ANDROGENS

Zona reticularis

Corticotropin



Androgens

Androgens weak, masculinizing sex hormones (dehydroepiandrosteron and androstenedione)

Releasing of ACTH by hypophysis is stimulated by hypothalamic CRH.

### SUPRARENAL GLAND – MEDULLA



Suprarenal medulla functions as a modified sympathetic ganglion and possesses postganglionic sympathetic cells which lack dendrites and axons and preganglionic autonomic, sympathetic nerve fibers.

Parenchymal cells - **chromaffin cells -** modified postganglionic sympathetic cell bodies manufacture and release the neurotransmitter substances – catecholamines: **epinephrine** and **norepinephrine** (conversion of the amino acid tyrosine into the catecholamines).
### **C**ATECHOLAMINES

emotional stimulus – norepinephrine physiological stimulus – epinephrine (most effective)

- increase oxygen consumption and heat production

- control heart rate and arterial smooth muscles – increase blood pressure



In stress, **epinephrine** is released to prepare the body for **"fight or flight**" increases alertness, cardiac output, heart rate, increases the release of glucose from liver and blood flow through organs



## **PINEAL GLAND**

(**pineal body**) is an endocrine gland whose secretions are influenced by the light and dark periods of the day. Its shape resembles a tiny pine cone (hence its name). It is located near the centre of the brain, between the two hemispheres







The gland is covered by **pia mater** (delicate innermost layer of the meninges - the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord) composed of vascularized fibrous connective tissue, forming a capsule from which septa extend, dividing the pineal gland into incomplete lobules

## pinealocytes and

## PINEAL GLAND

## interstitial cells



The pinealocytes contain **synaptic ribbons** and produce **melatonin**.

Melatonin is secreted at night and increases the release of growth hormone and inhibits release of LH and FSH by the hypophysis and induces sleepiness.



Interstitial cells are believed to be astrocyte-like neuroglia

## PINEAL GLAND CORPORA ARENACEA – BRAIN SAND



Concretions of calcium phosphates and carbonates deposited in concentric rings. They appear in early childhood and increase in size throughout life. Although it is unclear how they are formed or function, they increase during short photoperiods and are reduced as the pineal gland is actively secreting.

concretions of calcium phosphates and carbonates

slide 49 PINEAL GLAND, Corpora aranacea (brain sand)

## What is OXYTOCIN?

Also called the "love homore" Oxytoch plays an important role in reproduction, feelings of attraction and bonding with our young,

Big Oxytocin releases happen during:

- SEX - CHILDBIRTH - BREASTFEEDING Oxytocin is thought to eliminate fear and encourage TRUST.

## DID TON IWOONS

Oxytocin was the first polypeptide to be synthesized. Its synthetic version is known today as "Pitocin" and is used in labor inductions. -Sex -Nipple Stimulation -Safety -Chocolate -Soft music -Massage

Oxytocin released at birth and during breastfeeding helps contract the uterus and stop bleeding.

### **Bonding hormone**

Oxyteein actually means "quick birth."

look for pars intermedia in areas indicated by (\*)

\*

\*

pars nervosa (neurohypophysis)

\*

\*

pars distalis (adenohypophysis)

\*

### slide 40 Hypophysis

Capillary

 $200 \mu m$ 

Nerve fibres

neurohypophysis posterior pituitary

adenohypophysis anterior pituitary

slide 40 Hypophysis



slide 40 Hypophysis, Adenohypophysis



### slide 8 Thyroid gland



Thyroid Gland H&E

> colloid in follicular lumen

follicular cells

### suprarenal medulla

suprarenal cortex





zona fasciculata

zona glomerulosa

zona reticularis

zona fasciculata



### slide 39 Suprarenal gland



### chromaffin reaction in the suprarenal gland (no. 5)

production of a yellow-brown to brown coloration in cells containing catecholamines when fresh tissue slices are placed in a dichromatechromate mixture



chromaffin reaction in the suprarenal gland (no.5)

### Specimen x (no. 32)

- please, answer the following questions:
- Can you recognize in this specimen:
- 1) epithelium (if the answer is yes what type is it?),
- 2) glands (if the answer is yes, what type are they?),
- 3) fibroblasts,
- 4) adipocytes (fat cells),
- 5) fibers: a) collagen, b) elastic,
- 6) striated muscle cells,
- 7) smooth muscle cells,
- 8) blood vessels, arterioles, venules,
- 9) capillaries,
- 10) nerves





# Next class – Female reproductive system, chapter 20





Interstitial cells = astrocyte-like neuroglial cells, small, dark nuclei

Pinealocytes Larger, lighter and round nuclei, surrounded by a broad rim of light cytoplasm.

Both pinealocytes and astrocytes have long processes which give the tissue between the nuclei its "stringy" appearance.



### Pituicytes

### Herring bodies



Nuclei of pinealocytes and interstitial cells

### slide 49 PINEAL GLAND

### colloid

simple cuboidal epithelium (follicular cells )



slide 8 Thyroid gland

### **HYPOPHYSIS**



Pars intermedia (indicated by stars) in humans is underdeveloped and formed by dispersed cells and follicles Thyroid hormones thyroxine  $(T_4)$  and triiodothyronine  $(T_3)$  play a major role in multiple biological and metabolic processes. They act by binding to nuclear thyroid receptors. This process regulates gene transcription and the subsequent production of various proteins that are involved in development, growth, and cellular metabolism





### Chromaffin reaction in the suprarenal gland (no.5)

production of a yellow-brown to brown coloration in cells containing catecholamines when fresh tissue slices are placed in a dichromatechromate mixture overnight.

## Chief cells Oxyphil cells

slide 90 Parathyroid gland

### Production of hormones is regulated by Feedback mechanism

### **Negative feedback mechanism**

- 1. Hormone activates its target cell
- 2. Inhibitory signal is generated and returned to the endocrine gland to halt hormone secretion

- **Positive feedback mechanism**
- **1. Hormone level is insufficient**
- 2. Positive signal is released and transmitted to the endocrine gland
- 3. Signal initiates an increase in hormone production

## Through the feedback mechanism endocrine system maintains homeostasis







### General structure and blood circulation in the adrenal gland



#### General structure and blood circulation in the adrenal gland



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The medulla receives a dual blood supply:

- 1. numerous vessels from the cortical capillary beds
- 2. an arterial supply from the long cortical arteries



#### Hypophyseal hormones and their target organs





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### SUPRARENAL GLAND – CORTEX



The cortex produces corticosteroid hormones from cholesterol and is stimulated by ACTH (corticotropin)

Cells of **zona glomerulosa**, synthesize and release the hormones called **mineralocorticoids**: **aldosterone and deoxycorticosterone**.

Cells of **zona fasciculata**, whose cells are referred to as **spongiocytes**, synthesize and release the hormones called **glucocorticoids**: **cortisol**, **cortisone and corticosterone**.

Cells of **zona reticularis**, synthesize and release **androgens**: **dehydroepiandrosterone and androstenedione**.

### Pituitary




### PARS NERVOSA



It is formed by pituicytes, nerve fibers and Herring bodies.



Neurosecretory cells produce releasing and inhibiting hormones

These hormones are secreted into a portal system

Hypothalamic hormones either stimulate or inhibit production of an anterior pituitary hormone

The anterior pituitary secretes its hormones into the bloodstream

conedotropins (FSH & LH) Coveries, Testes coveries, Testes coveries, Testes coveries, Testes coveries, Testes coveries, Testes coveries, Testes

clands

Adrenal cortex

Thyrold



glands

![](_page_76_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_77_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Thyroid hormone production** is regulated by the hypothalamus and pituitary gland. Hypothalamic thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) stimulates pituitary thyrotropin (TSH) synthesis and secretion. In turn, TSH stimulates production and release of  $T_4$  and  $T_3$  from the thyroid gland. Once released, T<sub>4</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> exert a negative feedback mechanism on the production of TRH and TSH.

The **hormone** binds to the receptor, resulting in the activation of a **signal transduction** mechanism that ultimately leads to cell type-specific responses.

![](_page_78_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_79_Figure_0.jpeg)

Arterial supply of the pituitary.

Superior hypophyseal arteries enter the median eminence and form the external plexus close to nerve endings from neuroendocrine cells of the hypothalamus. From this plexus forms long portal vessels which run down the pituitary stalk and then form capillary vessels going into anterior pituitary. Thus, there is a direct vascular link between hypothalamus and endocrine pituitary cells.

### Organization of the adrenal cortex

![](_page_80_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Types of Endocrine Gland Stimuli**

![](_page_81_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_82_Picture_0.jpeg)

slide 49 PINEAL GLAND

![](_page_83_Picture_0.jpeg)

# slide 8 Thyroid gland

# **ENDOCRINE GLANDS**

## **Pituitary gland**

![](_page_84_Figure_2.jpeg)

## **Thyroid gland**

![](_page_84_Figure_4.jpeg)

## **Pineal gland**

![](_page_84_Figure_6.jpeg)

# Suprarenal (adrenal gland) gland

![](_page_84_Figure_8.jpeg)

## **Parathyroid gland**

![](_page_84_Picture_10.jpeg)

# THYROID GLAND

![](_page_85_Figure_1.jpeg)

Unlike most of the endocrine glands, which store their secretory substances within the parenchymal cells, the thyroid gland stores its secretory substances in the lumina of follicles. Each follicle can store several weeks' supply of Thyroglobulin hormone within the **colloid**.

# **CHROMAFFIN CELLS**

- are arranged in clusters and cords
- stain intensely chromaffin salts

Cortex

Medulla

Sinusoidal blood capillary

Medullary cells (Chromaffin cells)

- synthesize epinephrine (adrenaline) and norepinephrine (noradrenaline) and contain granules with catecholamines
- the release of catecholamines is controlled by the splanchnic nerves (acetylcholine)

![](_page_86_Picture_5.jpeg)

chromaffin reaction in the suprarenal gland-brown color of cells indicates that cells contain catecholamines

![](_page_87_Figure_0.jpeg)

The **pituitary gland** is connected to the brain by neural pathways; it has also rich vascular supply from vessels that supply the brain, attesting to the intercoordination of the two systems in maintaining a physiological balance.

Secretion of the hormones produced by the pituitary gland is controlled by hormonal or nerve signals from the hypothalamus

### Seminar: Hormones produces by the hypophysis, regulation by the hypothalamus. Practical class: Endocrine glands.

- hypophysis (no. 40),
- thyroid gland (no. 8),
- parathyroid gland (no. 90),
- suprarenal gland (no. 39),
- pineal gland (no. 49),
- chromaffin reaction in the suprarenal gland (no. 5),
- specimen x (no. 32) please, answer the following questions:
  - Can you recognise in this specimen: 1) epithelium (if the answer is yes what type is it?), 2) glands (if the answer is yes, what type are they?), 3) fibroblasts, 4) adipocytes (fat cells), 5) fibers: a)collagen, b)elastic, 6) stratified muscle cells, 7) smooth muscle cells, 8) blood yessels, artsrislag, yenules
  - 8) blood vessels, arterioles, venules,
  - 9) capillaries,
  - 10) nerves.
- primary hyperparathyroidis (text & fig. 85),
- photograph of a patient with a thyroglossal cyst (photo. 87),

![](_page_88_Picture_14.jpeg)

photo. no 87 Photograph of a patient with a thyroglossal cyst. These cysts are remnants of the thyroglossal duct and may be located at any place along the migration pathway of the thyroid gland. They are frequently located behind the arch of the hyoid bone.

An important diagnostic characteristic is their midline location.

#### Text Nr 85 Primary hyperparathyroidis

67-year-old female patient was admitted to the hospital with severe right leg contusion. X-ray examination showed a fracture of femoral bone corpus and significant decrease of bone mineral density, especially in upper limb (radius and ulna) bones. In addition, multiple fracture of left radial bone occurred during the stay in the hospital. Biochemical analysis revealed significant (approx. 3,8 mM)<sup>1</sup> hypercalcemia (elevated calcium level in serum) and hypercalciuria (high calcium level in urine). Clinical symptoms were typical for hyperparathyroidis, which could be caused by parathyroid adenoma – a benign neoplasm of this organ. Secretion activity of such neoplasm is independent of regulatory influence of other factors (so-called "autonomous" secretion). The parathyroid adenoma releases huge amount of parathormone (PTH), a hormone responsible for remodeling of bone tissue, e.g. calcium release from the bone mineral <sup>2</sup>.

Further diagnostic procedures confirmed preliminary diagnosis. The ultrasound scan (USG) of the neck showed the presence of small (12 x 7 mm), hypoechogenic area on the posterior surface of left thyroid lobe, which could correspond to an enlarged parathyroid gland. During the operation, surgeons confirmed the presence of enlarged gland in the above localization, which was removed and sent for microscopic analysis. A histological examination result was as follows: "benign parathyroid neoplasm of adenoma type".

Within few hours after operation calcium level in serum decreased to the normal range. Moreover, some symptoms of hypocalcemia (serum level 1,98 mM) with tetany and facial muscle numbness appeared 1 day after operation. This symptoms, usually observed after similar operations are called "hungry bone syndrome". They are a result of intensified calcium incorporation to the bone mineral after a decrease of PTH level. The further treatment required supplementation of calcium and phosphates deficiency and immobilization of bone fractures.

- Fig. 85 a. X-ray picture of femoral bone fracture (left arrow). Also is visible significant osteolysis of distal epyphysis (right arrow).
  - Control picture shows a knee joint with normal density of femoral epyphysis.
- Fig. 85 b. X-ray picture of antebrachial bones with focal decrease of bone density (arrows).

Control picture shows X-ray picture of healthy individual's antebrachium.

Fig. 85 - c. X-ray picture of antebrachial bones with multiple fracture (arrows). Possible spiral fracture of ulna. Antebrachium immobilized in a Krammer's "ladder".

![](_page_88_Picture_28.jpeg)

hypophysis

![](_page_88_Picture_30.jpeg)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Normal calcium range in serum is 2.2 - 2.8 mM (mmol/l)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It has been reported, that PTH, if administrated in "pulse mega-doses", e.g. once per day, may exert anabolic influence on osteoblasts. Thus, it is used in osteoporosis therapy trials.

Fig. 85 - d. Ultrasound scan of patient's neck. Tch - trachea, T - thyroid gland - left lobe, A - parathyroid adenoma (showed in border).

Fot. 85 a

#### Photo control

![](_page_89_Picture_3.jpeg)

Fot. 85 b

![](_page_89_Picture_5.jpeg)

**Photo control** 

![](_page_89_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_89_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_89_Picture_9.jpeg)

Fot. 85 c

![](_page_89_Picture_11.jpeg)

Fot. 85 d