

CPC EXAM: ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

- A series of glands found throughout the body that secrete chemicals (like hormones) into the bloodstream and other systems
- These regulate growth, mood, sleep, metabolism, calcium retention, protein production and more
- Codes for procedures on the endocrine system are found in the numerical range 60000 – 60699

THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM CONT.

- You will see 10 questions on the CPC exam on the 60,000 series of Surgery, which includes the endocrine system, nervous system, eye and ocular adnexa, and ear

THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM CONT.

- Glands of the **endocrine system** are found throughout the body
 - Many, like the pineal gland and pancreas, are integral parts of other systems
 - The pineal gland is found inside the brain, while the pancreas is found attached to the digestive tract
- Codes for procedures on glands found in other major systems are included in the Surgery subsections on those systems
 - So, codes for procedures on the pineal gland are found in the nervous system subsection
 - Ditto for the pancreas and digestive system

THE GLANDS OF THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

| Name | Function | Location |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Hypothalamus | Monitors growth, affects lactation, interacts with pituitary gland | In the brain, below the thalamus, above the brain stem |
| Pineal body | Monitors circadian rhythms (24-hour cycle of the body, commonly cited with regard to sleep) | In the brain, above the cerebellum, part of the thalamus |
| Pituitary gland | Affects growth (releases human growth hormone), affects pain perception, stimulates the production of sperm and eggs, stimulates thyroid gland | At the base of the brain, in the hypothalamus |
| Thyroid | Affects oxygen and energy consumption (metabolism) and bone construction | In the neck, below the thyroid cartilage (Adam's apple) |

THE GLANDS OF THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM CONT.

| Name | Function | Location |
|--|--|---|
| Pancreas | Affects intake of glucose and lipids, and inhibits production of insulin | In the abdomen, by the duodenum |
| Adrenal glands (made up of Adrenal cortex and adrenal medulla) | Cortex: stimulates the breakdown of fat, inhibits protein synthesis, inhibits immunological responses, affects kidney function Medulla: produces adrenaline and noradrenaline (stimulate “fight or flight” response), boosting the supply of oxygen to the brain; increases heart rate and regulates pain | In the abdomen, immediately superior to the kidneys |
| Reproductive glands (Ovaries and testes) | Testes: creates testosterone, which affects muscle growth and bone density, along with development of sex organs, deepening of voice, etc. Ovaries: creates progesterone and estrogen, which support pregnancy, affect growth, metabolism, increase bone formation, and many other functions | In or below the abdomen |

THE ALIMENTARY SYSTEM

- Several major organs directly affect (or are affected by) the **endocrine system**
 - Including
 - Stomach
 - Duodenum
 - Liver
 - Kidneys
 - These are all part of the **alimentary system** (the gastrointestinal tract)

CODES FOR THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

- Since so much of the **endocrine system** is found inside other major systems, the **endocrine system** subsection of Surgery focuses mostly on the thyroid
 - Thyroid: butterfly-shaped gland in the neck
- You'll also find codes for procedures on the adrenal glands
 - Located near kidneys

WHAT TO KNOW

- Medical/Surgical terminology
- Anatomy of endocrine system