

GONADAL HORMONE

Introduction:- The male generative organs consist of testis, epididymis, vas deferens, vesiculae, seminal vesicles, prostate gland, bulbourethral gland and penis whereas female reproductive organs include ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, vagina, and breasts. Testis and ovaries are called primary sex organs or the gonads. Remaining structures are collectively known as secondary sex organs.

Testis & ovaries pass two functional compounds: (i) Formation of gametes and (ii) Secretion of hormones. So it will be better to describe hormones in separate ways as male gonadal hormones and female gonadal hormones.

Male Gonadal Hormones :-

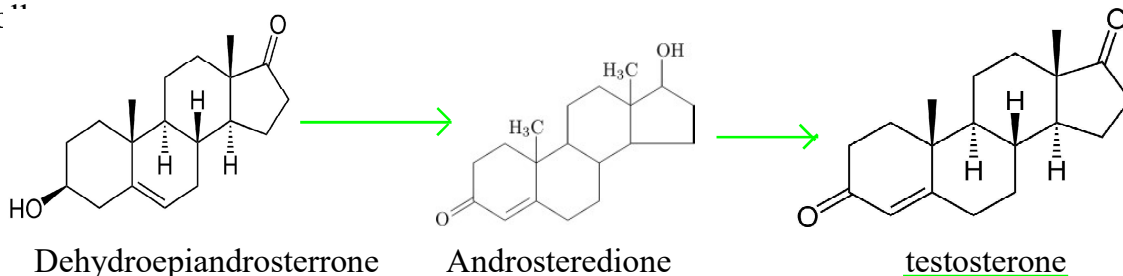
Androgens or Testosterone

Source:- Testis produces androgens (male sex hormone) responsible for the maintenance of testicular structure and accessory sex structures and secondary sex characters. More particularly, the interstitial cells are the site where androgens are synthesized.

Nature of Androgens:- There are three types of androgens which are steroids in nature.

- i) Dehydroepiandrosterone
- ii) Androstenedione
- iii) Testosterone

Of these three, testosterone is the more potent hormone. Chemical structures are as follows:



Biosynthesis of Androgens:- The interstitial cells are the largest cells that are stimulated by gonadotrophins for an increased secretion of androgens from pregnenolone to DHEA and then to androstenedione. This androstenedione is converted into testosterone.

Mode of Action:-

Androgen promotes protein synthesis in male accessory glands by causing increased RNA and RNA polymerase in the nucleus and increased aminoacyl transferase at the ribosomal level. Androgens increase the activity of glycolytic enzymes phosphofructokinase & hexokinase.

Functions of Androgens (Mainly Testosterone) :-

1) Growth of accessory male sex organ :- Androgens cause growth of accessory sex-organs, such as seminal vesicles, prostate gland, epididymis, vas deferens, penis etc and maintenance of the morphological and functional activity of these seminal vesicles and fructose begins to be secreted from them.

2) Development of male secondary sex characters:-

These includes :- i) Distribution of hair

ii) Development of typical muscular voice.

iii) Activity of emotional makeup of the male.

3) Metabolic effect:- Testosterone can be regarded as a specialised growth hormone acting mainly on accessory organ of reproduction.

4) Effect on RBC :- Total number of RBC which comes back to control level on androgen treatment.

5) Synthetic role:- Androgens have a direct stimulating effect on DNA and RNA polymerases the synthesis of mRNA and the incorporation of amino acids into proteins.

6) Protein anabolic action:- Testosterone is a protein anabolic hormone. It causes increased passage of amino acids inside the cells and possible nitrogen balance.

7) Muscular development:- Selective stimulation of certain muscles by androgens indicates that hormones has mesotropic effects.

8) Effect on growth and bone:- Due to the protein anabolic nature of testosterone it cause in bonematrix & thus increases deposition of calcium salts. It also leads to closer of epiphysis of long bones causing normal growth.

The End