Adrenocorticotropic hormone

Adrenokortikotropní hormon (ACTH) is hormone of the **anterior pituitary gland** (adenohypophysis), that controls the activity of the adrenal cortex. The cortex of the adrenal gland consists of three layers – zona glomerulosa, zona fasciculata and zona reticularis. The zona fasciculata and reticularis are controlled by ACTH. ACTH production is controlled from the hypothalamus with the help of hormones - corticoliberin (CRH, increases secretion) and corticostatin (CRH-IH, decreases secretion). The main function of ACTH is to increase the production of glucocorticoids (cortisol) in the adrenal cortex.

adenohypophysis

a peptide consisting of 39 amino acids

Adrenal cortex

increases the production of glucocorticoids in the adrenal cortex

Chemical structure:

- It is a peptide consisting of 39 amino acids and its precursor is propiomelanocortin.

Secretion disorders:

- Chronic ACTH stimulation of the adrenal cortex leads to adrenocortical hyperplasia a hypertrophy.
- ACTH deficiency leads to adrenocortical atrophy.

Links

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- Glucocorticoids
- The adrenal medulla
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