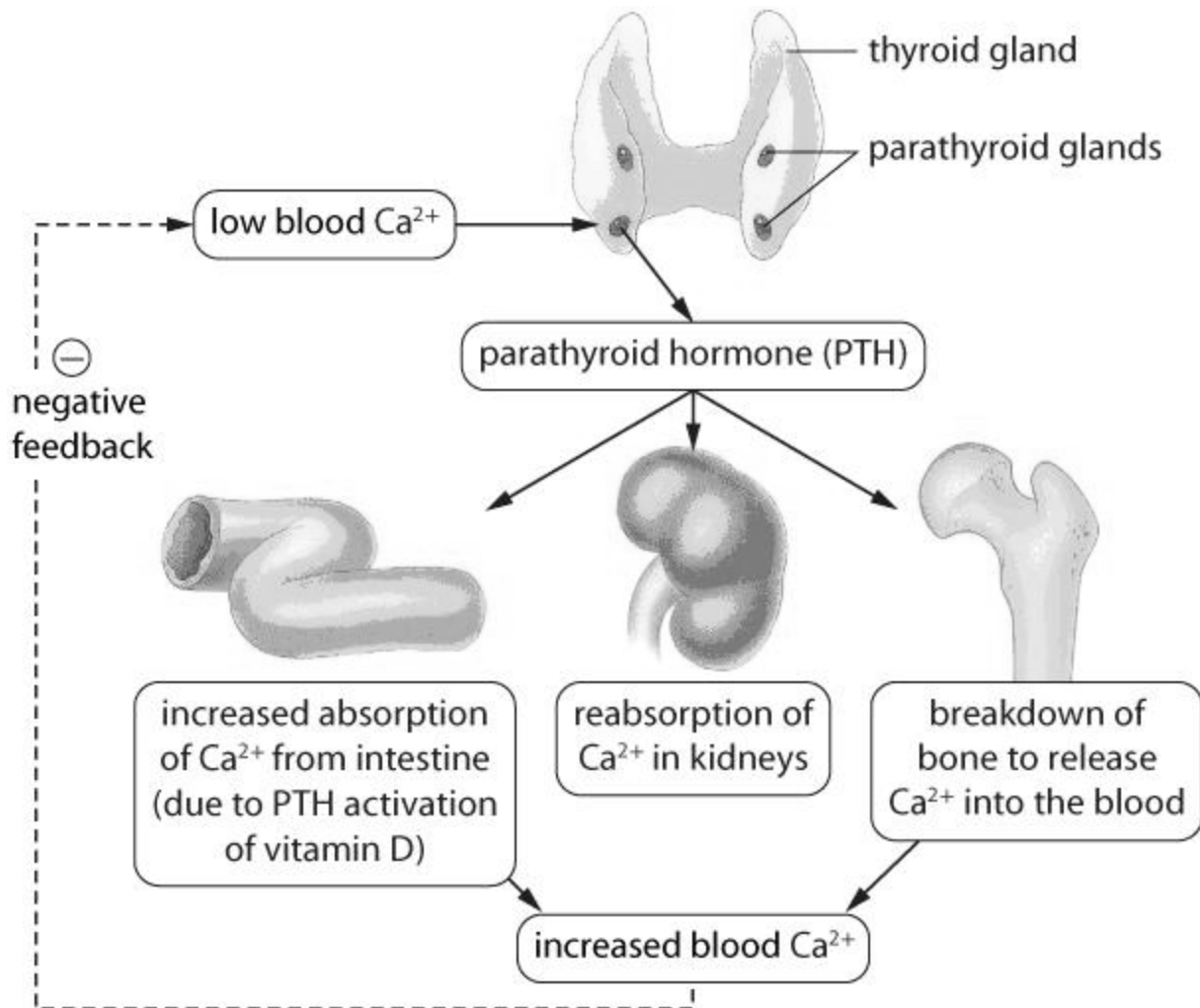


Parathyroid Glands



Negative feedback mechanisms regulate the concentration of calcium in the blood by parathyroid hormone (PTH). When blood concentration of calcium (Ca^{2+}) is low, PTH is released by the parathyroid glands. PTH directly stimulates the breakdown of bone and the reabsorption of Ca^{2+} by the kidneys. It indirectly promotes the absorption of Ca^{2+} in the intestine by stimulating the production of vitamin D.