

Key Reproductive Hormones and Their Functions

Hormone	Production site	Target organ(s)	Function in male reproductive system	Function in female reproductive system
gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH)	hypothalamus	anterior pituitary gland	stimulates the release of FSH and LH from the anterior pituitary	stimulates the release of FSH and LH from the anterior pituitary
follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)	anterior pituitary	ovaries and testes	stimulates the development of the sex organs and gamete production	stimulates the development of the sex organs and gamete production
luteinizing hormones (LH)	anterior pituitary	ovaries and testes	stimulates the production of testosterone	triggers ovulation, and (with FSH) stimulates estrogen production
estrogen	ovary (follicle)	entire body	minor	stimulates the development of the female reproductive tract and secondary sex characteristics
progesterone	ovary (corpus luteum)	uterus	minor	causes uterine thickening
testosterone	testes (interstitial cells)	entire body	stimulates the development of the male reproductive tract and secondary sex characteristics	minor
inhibin	testes (Sertoli cells)	anterior pituitary and hypothalamus	inhibit FSH production	inhibit FSH production